

Stephen Lawler - Colorado Springs, Colorado

Stephen was born with Spina Bifida and first tried skiing at age 6. He later became the first adaptive ski racer in the state of Vermont to represent a high school ski team in competition. In his senior year, he was named team captain. Throughout middle and high school, Stephen also skied with the Vermont Adaptive Ski and Sports (VASS) ski team. After high school, he moved to Colorado to train full-time through the NSCD in Winter Park. He worked his way up through the international ranks in 2011 and 2012, and won his first world championship medal — silver in downhill — in 2013. Stephen was named to Team USA for the Sochi 2014 Paralympic Winter Games, although due to shoulder surgery earlier in the season, the medical staff did not clear him to compete. After rehabbing, he went on to race at the 2015 and 2017 IPC Alpine Skiing World Championships. He made his true Paralympic debut at the PyeongChang 2018 Winter Games, earning a top-20 finish in downhill. He had another shoulder surgery in the summer of 2018. After spending most of the 2018-19 season in recovery, he returned for the 2019 U.S. Paralympics Alpine Skiing National Championships, earning bronze medals in super-G and giant slalom.