

Scholarship Essay

Skiing has evolved significantly over the years in many ways including technique, grooming of hills and ski equipment. I will be explaining in this essay some of the changes that have been made to ski equipment over the years and how it has impacted skiers. I will also briefly discuss how skiing has impacted my life and how I would like to be able to return this hobby to the community. I have been skiing for the last 12 years and it is an activity that brings my family together and is also a fun hobby to do with my friends.

I was fortunate to be able to interview Mr. William Haling for this essay. Mr. Haling has a wealth of experience in skiing and coaching skiing. He began skiing in 3rd grade, began racing as a sophomore in high school which continued into college and adulthood. Mr Haling was an assistant Alpine ski coach for 5 years and head Alpine ski coach for 10 years at Wausau West and had definitely seen the effects ski equipment has had on athletes and their performance.

According to the article, Evolution of Skis, "Dating back to more than 8000 years BC, the very first skis were found first in northern China. Made of wood, they were around 2 meters long and covered in horse hair. Other skis dating back to around 6300 J.-C were also found in Russia, with a simple leather strap for bindings." Throughout the years, skis have evolved to become more durable for the conditions. "In the 1970s and 80s the ski industry invested massively into improving materials and in developing

new shock absorption technologies. Much focus was placed on the size of skis, and correct location of bindings.” stated in the article Evolution of Skis.

All of these changes to skis allowed skiers to be faster, more stable and safer. Mr. Haling states, “ Probably the biggest change is the ski equipment. The move to shaped skis has changed the way we ski and has made it easier to master the skills of getting down the hill. My new skis right now are the same size as the pair I bought in 8th grade yet they are faster, more stable, and easier to turn. The technology in the area of equipment is by far the biggest and best change to skiing in my lifetime.”

These ski technology advancements are impressive but I agree with Mr Haling in the overall impact that skiing and coaching can have on individuals. Mr. Haling stated “I was proud of my athletes not only as skiers but what they were able to accomplish after skiing for Wausau West. Many of my skiers have gone on to live a life that involves skiing in some way shape or form. Some work directly in the ski industry and others live in areas where they can ski on a regular basis. I am grateful for the friendship and camaraderie that I have with my former athletes.” I am planning to pursue a major in Special Education and I hope to also coach and be able to share experiences with students in a positive way whether that would be through skiing, teaching, coaching or just sharing my experiences with the community.

Abigail Bushman 2022
Rib Mountain Ski Club Scholarship essay

Works Cited:

<https://www.valthorens.com/en/blog/the-evolution-of-skis>

Interview with Mr. Haling:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/13NfslkgCiE4lrgQRobhhEBIjJpk9haPMolqhpFBekM/edit>