



Bill Schuffenhauer born June 24, 1973, is a United States of America Bobsledder who has competed since 2000. Competing in three Winter Olympics, he won the silver medal in the four-man event at Salt Lake City in the 2002 Winter Olympics. Bill grew up in Salt Lake City, Utah and as a child, his parents were drug addicts, and his mother was a prostitute who was often beaten in front of him. He had to steal, eat from trash cans, and once was caught trying to break into a bicycle store to try to steal something to sell for food.

The few friends he had were mostly in street gangs, and Bill drank and smoked.

His parents were often evicted, and he lived in foster homes. Schuffenhauer's maternal grandmother, Sadie Muniz, took him in as he was about to enter junior high in Roy, Utah "She reminded me to never give up and always push on," he said. Because of his grandmother's influence, he began going to school and started to participate in track and field in his high school (Roy High), due to his great speed. He persevered to become an Olympian, and his coaches encouraged him greatly as well. He soon became a decathlete. He went to Weber State University and there he won the junior nationals in 1992. Additionally, he played American football in high school and was asked to play professionally in Florida.

Schuffenhauer's Olympics dream as a track and field athlete came to an end in 2000. While training for 2000 Summer Olympics in Sydney, he suffered a bad ankle injury and he could barely walk. When his friend told him that the U.S. Olympic team was practicing bobsledding in Park City, Utah, he took the chance to go and observe. While there, the team members noticed his 6 foot, 200-pound frame and asked him he wanted to be a pus...

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Speech Topics

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