

Cross-Country Skiing

By BOB PLATT

After a lapse of months and nearing the end of winter, the Star has received a bonafide gift of snow doing much to restore it to its normal state.

The change occurred last Friday and snow has continued falling throughout the week to increase the depth by over 30 cm. In the past week, the snow has accumulated 30 cm. It's a truly wonderful scene right down to the 1,000-metre level.

Advice to cross-country skiers going up this weekend is to be prepared for a deep track, unless of course some good samaritan has done some packing. This is no mean task in itself as it requires a lot of work but it certainly makes all the difference when a pole is planted on a firm underlying surface.

The news is good about the Star, with a reasonable temperature range, there's another six weeks skiing to look forward to up there.

MAIN RANGE SKIING

In the North Okanagan Cross-Country Ski Club, there is a group led by Don Wylie, much addicted to touring the high country. These people go from hut to hut, the Jasper-Island area being their preference and they leave civilization far behind them for days on end.

The skis used are bushwhacker type suited to the conditions encountered at 2,000 metres. They have on occasions found themselves inadvertently jumping off cornices and have a normal ski to doubt less envious of Nordic high up in the mountains. The wintering is a pleasure about it, there's a good book in the library entitled, "Pioneers on Skis," written by Erling Strom and it's an astounding narrative of trips through the Rockies.

BEGINNERS LOOP ON THE STAR

This additional trail, off Loop One, could be flagged shortly as there is not much to be done to put it into operation. It will offer a shorter journey back to base by cutting out the northern half of Loop One and using a fairly level terrain, the toughest skiers should be able to enjoy an hour or so on the snow before going back to the carpark for a well-earned rest.

OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES

The television sets this week provided great coverage of the Norwegian event for while only a few of the local skiers would ever be able to emulate the top-rankers in the games, at least everyone appreciated how technique made it so easy to go over the course. If nothing else was learned, it made people realize that cross-country skiing is open to all, with a minimum of gear and it is an excellent way to maintain physical fitness.

BANFF FASTER

Information at hand makes the forthcoming trip to Banff even more attractive. Each day the party will be riding near Sunshine Meadows and the 1,000 season extends to the end of May each year so good snow conditions can be expected. The booking line is at Stua's Sports and the cost of 170 per person which covers bus fare and three nights at the Aspen Lodge, in Banff.

LAST SUNDAY

Lloyd Heiden took his party to the Star last Sunday, after being held up on the Beaver Lake access road, but even then they were on the snow before noon and had a good day. Lloyd would like to go to Beaver two, three and for those who desire an easy short tour this beautiful surroundings it is recommended.

SPRINT CLIP

The annual Sprint Cup is being conducted Sunday at Cedar Hill and the program offers a lot of classes. Courses are from 15 km to 10 km in length and participants should appeal to the juniors who can enjoy themselves in friendly competition with their own club members.

MEMBERS ASKED TO BE AT DOWNTOWN SUPERVALU

Members are asked to be at Downtown SuperValu at 8:30 am on Sunday for shoe repairs. The shoe repair and Cedar Hill trips.

More information from 646-5485, 542-9608 or Lloyd Beattie at 542-8639.

Burka calls for overhaul

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (CP) — Canada's top women's skater wants to see a national program overhauled so that Canadians can compete on an equal level with the top racers in the world.

Sylvia Burka, of Winnipeg, Thursday said she was disappointed with the Canadian program which placed one medal at the Winter Olympics — a silver by sprinter Gaetan Boucher.

"I was disappointed because Canadians aren't performing well at the time we should be," she said. "Except for Gaetan, he's the only one who has been kind of consistent through the years."

"The rest of the team has been kind of up and down and I think we have to go to the program and look at what we've done. We have to get a program that will win us medals in 1994."

"If I knew what kind of program that should be, I would have been winning kinds this year. Nobody knows. The Americans have figured it out for Eric Heiden, but not for Beth Heiden's younger sister."

Heiden has won unprecedented four gold medals in a competition during the last 1,500 metres Thursday when Boucher finished 15th in the race of his late starting position. Heiden's sister won one medal, a bronze in the women's 3,000 metres.

Burka went into her third Olympics hoping for her first medal, but her best finish was a seventh despite skating in all four women's events.

"Skating is such a tricky sport, with both a combination technique and a timing aspect at the right time of the year," Burka said. "I don't think that anyone has it right yet because you just train as hard as you can, and hope for a partnership time."

Burka, 25, won the world overall championship in 1978 and in this, her 13th year of racing, she had hoped to finish off with an Olympic medal. She plans to be involved in elite skating in future years, but first she wants to complete her education in fashion design and textile.



ZONE CHAMPS

Falconettes were the winners of the zone 'bree native women's basketball playoffs at Keremeos Feb. 8 and 9. They will be hosting the provincial finals at W. L. Seaton School March 7 and 8. Team members are from left, back row, Coach Lloyd Heiden, Valerie Brewer, Hannah Valier, Sheila Alexa, captain, and manager Albert Saddleman. Front left: Sandi Louie and Sherry Caine. Also on team are Pat Wilson, Nancy Alexa, Marc Marchand, Ruby Alexa and April Alexa. (Photo by M. Hodgson)

Wrong anthem, but she won gold medal

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (CP) — The band played God Save the Queen when Hanni Wenzel received her gold medal for the giant slalom Thursday, creating instant rumors that Liechtenstein had traded its best skier to Britain for pop singer Elton John, comedian Peter Sellers and future considerations.

It was a misunderstanding, Liechtenstein, it seems, uses the same music for its own national anthem. Since the city principally had never won an Olympic gold medal before, no one other than Liechtensteiners had ever heard it played.

When the Queen was played again a few hours later, the Union Jack was waving from the winner's flagpole as British figure skater Tony Coustus was honored for his victory in the men's singles.

At the speed skating oval, the figure on the rostrum was familiar: Eric Heiden of the United States became only the second athlete to collect four gold medals at the same Olympics with his triumph in the 1,000-metre event.

For Coustus, it was a night to remember following knee operations in 1975 and 1977 which threatened to end his career. For Hoffman, the disappointment of losing the lead was tempered by the thought of finally getting a medal in this, his fourth Olympics, at the age of 24.

And for Brian Pockar of Calgary, it brought the inner satisfaction of knowing that he can perform at the international level with confidence.

Pockar, the first of 16 skaters, shook his nervousness and performed the "best free skating program of my career" in finishing 12th. He didn't crack the top 10, but he restored his confidence in the figures and short program.

AMERICANS DO WELL. Not to be forgotten also was the strong performance of the American men. Charles Ticker took the bronze medal, David Santogot fourth place and Scott Hamilton finished fifth — the first time the United States has ever placed three skaters in the top five in the Olympics.

Coustus, who began skating on rented skis in his first year, said he made a couple of mistakes in his free program and will have to skate better to win the world championship next month in West Germany. "To prove I'm a worthy champion,"

Scouts look at junior players

By THE CANADIAN PRESS
While attendance is dipping at Queen's Park arena as New Westminster Bruins look through the motions of the flagging Hockey League season, professional scouts and avidly turned out in record numbers Thursday night.

There were at least a dozen National Hockey League scouts and 80 fans, lowest attendance of the season in the building as the Bruins were dumped 7:1 by Victoria Cougars.

It was likely the Cougars who the scouts wanted to see as they showed why they are one of the league's top teams. Victoria opened a 3-0 lead in the first period, but the Bruins played one of their worst games of the season.

The scouts probably liked what they saw in Greg Adams, who scored his 50th goal of the campaign. Victor and Barry Pederson who fired his 44th goal and added two more. Marchand, who led 11 to live up to his rating as one of the league's best 16-year-old draft picks.

Torrie Robertson, Bud McCarthy, Tony Feirln, Mark Morrison and Steve Cougars were also on the list. The Cougars who fired his 44th goal and added two more. Marchand, who led 11 to live up to his rating as one of the league's best 16-year-old draft picks.

STRIKES QUICKLY

Stewart's goal before 1:03 gave the Cougars a 1-0 lead. Dave McDonald tied the game for the Wheaties, who also got third-period markers from Don Gillen and Don Dietrich.

Lindsay Carson scored for Billings which moved into fifth place in the Eastern Division, two points behind Brandon. However, the Bruins have four games in hand.

ROCKETS BEATEN

REVELSTOCK, B.C. (CP) — Dave Smith scored the winner at 5:38 of overtime Thursday night as Penitence Knights beat Revelstock Rockets 3-2 and finished first place in the Interior Division of the British Columbia Junior Hockey League.

Penitence led 2-1 after the first period with goals by Doug Festerling and Jeff Hebrun. Murray Matheson scored one Revelstock goal in the first period and tied the score 2-2 on a second-period power-play marker.

The third period was scoreless but the goalies were perfect as Revelstock outshot Penitence 46-40 over the game.

Tonight, the Rockets visit Richmond to play the Sookeys, Chawwassen Colts and the Buckaroos at Kelowna, and the Caps entertain Nanaimo Clippers in North Vancouver.

FIELD OFF CHALLENGERS

Wenzel, who was born in West Germany and trains with the Swiss national team, held off the challenge of West German and French opponents to win the two-day giant slalom with a combined time of two minutes 41.88 seconds. Irene Pöppel of West Germany and Pertine Pelen of France were both within a second of the winner's time as they claimed the silver and bronze medals.

Defending champion Kathy Kreiner of Timmins, Ont., who had not even trained for the giant slalom this winter after disappointing performances in the two previous years, was ninth in the field of 40 contestants, moving up three places from her position after the first run.

Speed skater Gaetan Boucher of Ste. Foy, Que., a silver medalist behind Heiden in the 1,000 metres Tuesday, had the misfortune to be drawn in the last pair in Thursday's 1,000 and finished 18th, 2:00.15, a creditable time considering the deterioration of the ice. Heiden's winning time was 1:56.4 as he and seven other skaters broke the Olympic record of 1:59.58 set by the East German Kai Arne Stenshjemmet and Terje Grøvdal, the silver and bronze medalists.

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HAPA

Cousins grabs gold

LAKE PLACID, N.Y. (CP) — Robin Cousins made only one noticeable mistake Thursday night. He stumbled on the podium in accepting his Olympic gold medal.

The 22-year-old British skater was near-perfect for the rest of the evening as he used a string-free skating to pull ahead of her in the 10,000 metres Saturday.

There was a raucous ovation in Nordic sking as the young East German team debuffed the Soviet Union in the women's 4x5-kilometre cross-country relay, finishing more than a minute ahead of the Russians.

While in the day's five final events, the Soviet Union was being crowded by the East Germans at the top of the medal table with eight golds to East Germany's seven.

In the unofficial point standings, based on a 10-5-4-3-2-1 count for the first six placings in final events, the East German team pulled ahead with 152 1/2 to the Russians' 144. The U.S. was third in both categories with four gold medals, all of them Heiden's, and 80 points.

The Canadian team, rapidly running out of medal chances in the nine remaining events, had a silver and a bronze and a 12-point total.

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CFL makes changes

TORONTO (CP) — Jake Gaudaur, commissioner of the Canadian Football League, said Thursday that the league has approved all recommendations from the rules committee, including allowing each team to request a one-minute timeout during the last three minutes of each half.

"We feel the time out will add to the entertainment factor," Gaudaur said. "Some argue that it will make longer games but we feel that it is a game one-sided there won't be any more. If it is close people won't mind one bit sitting in the park a little extra time." It will add the excitement.

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CORRECTION

The Boots Drug Stores "Signs Of Spring" ad which appeared in the Vernon Daily News on Wednesday, February 20th, did so in error. The advertisement was scheduled to appear on Feb. 27th, as the prices in the ad are in effect only February 27th to March 2nd.

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