

**WORRIED** about the future of American ski racing? Don't be. The sight of those tykes running the downhill course at Buck Hill Sunday in the Junior Alpine meet was heartwarming indeed. While the strong teen-age boys like downhill and giant slalom winner Chris Horty, St. Paul, put on a show of speed and control, wee racers like Janette Regel, 7, Edina, gave it all they had.

In the first race of her life Janette (who has three racing brothers, 10, 13 and 14) "wiped out" after taking the bumpy course, but was saved by strategically-placed bales of straw — part of the excellent race facilities provided by Buck Hill. Nearly 200 entered the races, largest field ever.

Skiing's popularity boom was also heard at Theodore Wirth Park Saturday as 72 skiers, the largest turnout in history, showed up for the cross-country races there. Second of three trials for the CUSSA cross country team will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Charlie Banks' course in Duluth, with a final run set for Cloquet Feb. 24.

Leaders to date for the six team berths (and their times for 10 kilometers) are Steve Nelson, 16, Cloquet (53:01); Tom Lund, 17, Hopkins (54:00); Jim Putnam, 17, Cloquet (54:59); Larry Tuomi, 17, Cloquet (55:09); Tom Fyle, 17, Minneapolis (55:11) and Tim Heisel, 14, Hopkins (55:37).

### Let's Build a Ski Area

**NORDMARKEN**, Minnesota's newest ski area, owes its existence to two suburban brothers-in-law who got the idea while sitting around the fire one evening a couple of winters ago.

"Let's build a ski area," said Jerry Branby, Brooklyn Park, to Ken Dalager, Brooklyn Center.

"O.K.," said Dalager. "Let's." It was as simple as that.

Together with another brother-in-law, Dr. Gene Savelkoul of Belgrade, Minn., they scouted for a hill by snowmobile, finally bought 200 acres 15 miles north of Willmar at Hwy's 71 and 9. There they built a chalet, cleared three runs and installed two rope tows. The location made it easy for Savelkoul, the actual property owner, to keep an eye on the project.

"It's not the biggest hill," said Branby of its modest 170-foot vertical, "but it's one of the prettiest." Branby began skiing while stationed in Garmisch and Berchtesgaden, W. Germany, as a member of the U.S. Army mountain training school.

Why Willmar? Partly because there was no ski area in all of southwestern Minnesota, a fact they knew well.

Base, 0-24 inches. Skiing New snow, 4 inches. Skiing good. very good.



**RALPH THORNTON**  
Ski Country

Branby and Dalager are natives of Glenwood, Minn., their wives came from Starbuck.

"We're going to cater to local skiers, keeping rates reasonable and starting as many people skiing as possible," Branby said. Nordmarken—named for a region in Norway—will be open weekends as soon as there is enough snow.

Some upsets are predicted when U.S. Alpine coach Bob Beattie announces his Olympic ski team today. Disappointing showings by some veterans and surprising progress by youngsters on the tryout squad will cause some well-known names—both men and women—to be dropped from the Grenoble roster.

### National Ski Week

**THIS IS NATIONAL** Ski Week, and the Twin Cities Ski Retailers Association is departing from its usual program of free bus rides to the slopes for skiers — for a good reason. Instead they have donated the \$500 it would have cost to the U.S. Olympic ski team.

"The ski team desperately needs the funds," said association secretary Tom Anderson, Wayzata. "They are \$220,000 short of their \$400,000 training budget for the Olympics." Contributions (payable to "U.S. Ski Education Foundation") may be sent to U.S. Ski Team Fund Committee, Box 939, Colorado Springs, Colo.

What is CUSSA? It's not an oath, though skiers swear by it. Actually it stands for Central Division, U.S. Ski Association, official body for ski racing and other skiing activities in the Midwest. The division is shooting for 25,000 members this year, out of an estimated 700,000 skiers in the 16-state area it covers.

Skiers who pay its \$5 membership dues receive a red, white and blue arm patch (illustrated), similar windshield sticker, Skiland magazine, a 50-cent discount at 35 Midwest ski areas (including Lutsen, Mt. Frontenac, Quadna, Val Chatel, Whitecar and Loch Lomond), and a free one-day lift ticket (good Mar. 12-13-14, 19-20-21, 26-27-28, Apr. 2-3-4, 9-10 or 11) at Boyne, Mich., Mt. Telemark, Wis., and Sugar Hills, Minn.

Perhaps more important, they assist the National Ski Patrol and other slope safety programs, plus supporting the junior training programs so important to future Olympic hopes.

**COMING UP:** The annual challenge slalom race between the Minneapolis ULLR Ski Club and the Vagabonds of Milwaukee, Wis., will be at Mt. Telemark Sunday. ULLR members now hold both men's and women's trophies . . . Sunday's cross country tour by North Star Ski Touring Club will be at Sand Dunes State Park near Zimmerman, Minn. Trip leader Burton Deane (926-3289) has details.



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