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# Why Minneapolis Skiers Are Tops

## Slalom Racing Reaches New High In Trickery

By LLOYD BORG

WHEN a crouching skier zooms through a pair of flags streaking zig-zag down a flag-studded hill, you're watching one of winter's fastest growing sports. Slalom racing has given the skier new thrills and skills, AND QUITE A FEW SPILLS.

Slalom (from "sla" for slope and "lalom" for track running) is based on the idea of clearing an obstacle, and is a breathless sort of croquet in which the skier takes the place of the ball that skims through the wickets.

Slalom wickets are gates formed by two flags placed too close together, between which a slalom contestant tries to pass at high speed.

The zig-zag pattern of the flags placed down the side of a hill is so arranged the skier must sharply turn as he approaches the flags or immediately afterward, in order to be able to go through the next series of flags.

Unlike roaring down mile-long mountain sides, Twin City skiers must content themselves with hills less than 200 feet in elevation. Because of this, slalom racing in this area has reached a new high in ski trickery.

Gates in the slalom courses have been set close so as to squeeze in sufficient flushes, hairpins and corridors before the base is reached. This has received some criticism, but it has taught the Twin City skier how to control his six foot ski in the tightest corners.

### SLALOM RACING IS INTERESTING TO SPECTATORS

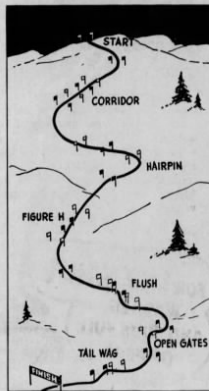
Usually the course is laid out over an open slope so the entire run may be observed. Spectators line the course, rooting for their team and filling the hillside with moans when an over anxious racer misjudges a set of flags and must retrace on to the course.

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Slalom racing began a few years ago in the midwest. With the spurt of recreational skiing, new thrills were discovered in slalom racing. In 1930, slalom racing was organized in the Twin Cities. Up until that time clubs held meets, but there was little co-operation. But with the growth of clubs, there wasn't enough week-ends to give every club a chance for a meet. That year, a ski racing council was formed by the Twin City clubs to co-operate on three major meets each year. Immediate interest was shown, and today more than a hundred skiers participated in each meet starting in the morning and continuing long after the sun sets.

Despite the lack of hills, Twin City skiers have made through use of whatever terrain was available. Skiers can find long rolling open slopes or steep tree-studded hills, short, but adequate for good practice.

Most Minneapolis skiers started their training at Wurth or Columbia park, where the



A slalom course attempts to give skier speed and quick turns on all types of terrain.

Park board taught the fundamentals of skiing. Lighted hills gave the skiers opportunities to practice nightly. Classes are held once a week under direction of Helen Socum of the park board.

Moon Valley, located across the Minnesota



Mrs. Harry Dye, ace Twin City woman skier, started skiing in 1932—won the coveted Gold Skis at Sun Valley in 1941 on tightly roped sprained ankle.

river from Shakopee on highway No. 7, is a popular rendezvous. The hills are lighted and a tow pulls you to the top of the hill where you may glide down into a vast bowl.

Further north, near Hopkins, the Lone Lake club has its private chalet and tow. Another and fastest hill will be found five miles beyond Minnetonka river on Lyndale South, better known as Bush Hill, where the University and Bush Lake ski club are headquartered. Barker's Alps at Bayport, near Stillwater, is a good slope for recreational skiing.

The North Star club has its tow and chalet on one half the hill. Down the St. Croix river, at Afton, the Moundview club has discovered new hills that compare favorably with the New Brighton hill that was taken over by the mun-

tion plants.

At Stillwater, the St. Croix ski club practices at Perch Lake. Near Hastings, the Knob Hill club has a chalet and tow. Bush Lake hill, south of the Normandie road near the Shakopee road, is good.

### SO . . . YOU'RE TIRED OF THE HILLS AROUND THE TWIN CITIES!

Well, pack your skis and ski wax and hit yourself off to La Crosse where its snow bowl has become a mecca for Chicago and Twin City skiers. You'll find a tow and a chalet and every type of trail and slope imaginable.

Wausau, Wis., is another well populated ski center. Many Twin City skiers are trekking to Fort William, too.



Gust Peterson, 1941 Central Slalom Champ, paced eight other Twin City skiers in first 15 places at Wausau.



Slalom skiing is filled with spills, as shown by Gale Burton checking into fast turn.

### HOROSCOPE

Those whose birthday it is today are assured of a year of definite opportunity for reaching high goals of achievement and constructive ambitions. This is to be grasped, and should probably bring some sort of public cooperation or appreciation, if aggressive attack on sound and practical prospects is sustained by keen, swift and determined action. Be firm, steadfast and practical.

A child born on this day will have great versatility, energy, adaptability and resourcefulness, which may be climaxed in public service.