

Staffers 'pray for snow'

Weatherman holds key for Preston ski area



PLEASANT SETTING . . . The number two poma lift sits still now, just waiting for the right moment to wind its way up the wooded slopes to watch skiers schuss right back down. This is one of the four intermediate runs — starting gradually over the crest of the hill, it finishes here after a steep turn to the right (that's the skier's left).

Mets acquire Jim Fregosi

NEW YORK (AP) — After running through 43 third basemen in 10 years, the New York Mets hope they've finally found a stopper in Jim Fregosi.

The Mets acquired the star California Angels' infielder in a trade Friday, sending three players to the American League club, including pitcher Nolan Ryan.

Along with Ryan, the Mets shipped out three remaining minor leaguers — outfielder Leroy Stanton, catcher Francisco Estrada and pitcher Don Rose.

It was the first trade between the two expansion teams and appeared under the inter-league deadline of midnight Friday.

Badger skaters

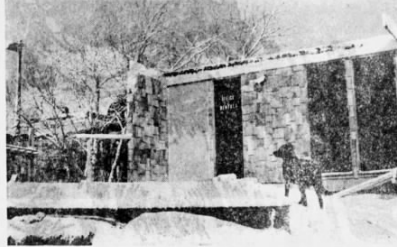
COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. (AP) — Seven Wisconsin players scored as the Badgers swept past Colorado 7-3 Friday night in the Western Collegiate Hockey Association.

Jim Young added two assists to his goal as he paced UW to its sixth victory seven WCHA games.

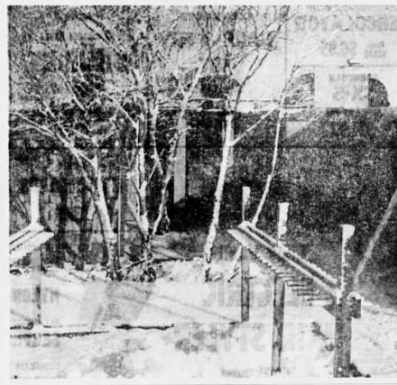
Colorado, which will host Wisconsin again tonight, now is 2-4 in the league.

Like a challenge?

Try Flying



WHERE'S EVERYBODY . . . Until the weatherman sees fit to lend a hand, the canine greeter (above) will have to look around for company, but as soon as enough snow blankets the ground, the Singing Hills Ski Area expects to be busy. The many ski racks sit empty now outside the modern lodge perched atop a hill on the outskirts of Preston, Minn. Staffers are putting on the finishing touches, hoping for a break in the weather. (Sunday News photos by Butch Horn)



By BUTCH HORN
Sunday News Outdoor Writer

PRESTON, Minn. — The weatherman hasn't been cooperative, but Southeastern Minnesota's Singing Hills Ski Area is ready when he does.

"All we need to be in good shape is about five inches of snow," says Ted Johnson, manager of the Preston slopes, "or at least some cold weather so we can make some of our own."

Going into its first full season of operation, Singing Hills has made some improvements over its infant season, and its new staff is raring to go.

Johnson, a 28-year-old graduate of the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, comes to Southeastern Minnesota from the ski slopes of Michigan's upper peninsula. He handled public relations duties at Indianhead Mountain, one of the better known midwestern ski areas.

There's something for all skiers, beginners to old hands, with six slopes and two trails. From top to bottom there's a drop of some 270 feet, the longest run stretching for nearly half a mile. The rope tow and two poma lifts are ready and waiting, all that's missing is enough snow.

Hoping to be in full swing by next week, the operation boasts a new addition to its spacious lodge. "We want to make it convenient for the skiers," said Johnson while leading a tour of the lodge. "They'll get their lift tickets here, then step right into the ski shop for rental equipment."

The layout is designed to avoid crowding. From the deck inside the door, skiers step into the ante room of the lodge. They'll get their lift tickets here, then step right into the ski shop for rental equipment.

"From here, they step right through here," the manager pointed out, leading the way to the ski fitting area. "They get fitted

with a pair of skis and can go right from here to the slopes." All the rental equipment will be filled by staff members, a special aid to those who are giving the winter sports their first try. Once out on the hill, several spots draw a skier's attention. For beginners there's a gradual slope and a brand new rope tow, and for the veterans there's a steep advanced hill and the two trails. For those of us in between, there are four intermediate runs.

Singing Hills is open every day — or at least will be when conditions warrant it — and every night as well.

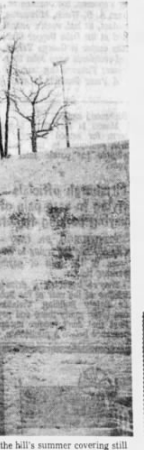


BARE SPOTS . . . Some of the hill's summer covering still shows through as Singing Hills waits for snow. Here, atop one of the steeper drops, a 20,000 watt flood light stands ready to transform the gloom of night to artificial sunlight seven nights a week.

"Unlike some ski areas," Johnson explains, "we have every run open for night skiing, thanks to the huge 20,000 watt lights scattered around the area." The brilliant lights offer daytime lighting for evening skiing on all six slopes.

Skiing has been increasing steadily in popularity, and its ranks swell more and more each year. With this in mind, Singing Hills has set up a ski school under the direction of Nick Terstenjak. A professional skier from Yugoslavia, Nick directs several ski schools throughout the Midwest.

The school at Singing Hills



will be under the tutelage of Darko Mren, a professional instructor, also from Yugoslavia. Under his direction, lessons will be offered to groups or individuals.

After getting the project started last winter — with many difficulties — there have been some changes in the runs themselves.

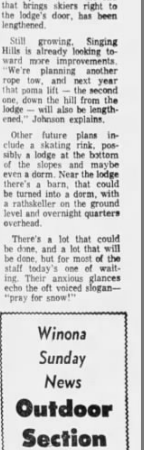
"Many people complained about the final stretch of the runs," says Johnson, "so we widened and lengthened them to give skiers more room to wind up their ride."

In addition to that, the No. 1 poma lift — the one that brings skiers right to the lodge's door, has been lengthened.

Still growing, Singing Hills is already looking toward more improvements. "We're planning another rope tow, and next year that poma lift — the second one, down the hill from the lodge — will also be lengthened," Johnson explains.

Other future plans include a skating rink, possibly a lodge at the bottom of the slopes and maybe even a dorm. Near the lodge there's a barn, that could be turned into a dorm, with a radiator on the ground level and overnight quarters overhead.

There's a lot that could be done, and a lot that will be done, but for most of the staff today's one of waiting. Their anxious glances echo the oft-voiced slogan — "pray for snow!"



Winona Sunday News 11b
Winona, Minnesota
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1971

Savings and Selection...Outdoor Store

WARM LINED Ice Skates
Boys' and girls' to size 7. \$8.99
Regular \$9.95

Men's and ladies' sizes 4 to 11. \$9.99
Regular \$11.99

SURE WE TRADE SKATES!
Better quality foam insulated. Sizes 4-12, men's or ladies'.
\$14.99
Reg. \$18.99

HOCKEY SKATES

BOYS' — \$11.99
REG. \$12.95

MEN'S — \$17.99
REG. \$20.95

WARM, LIGHTWEIGHT INSULATED COVERALLS
Ideal for all outdoor activity—tough coveralls that shed water — comfortable, insulated to retain body warmth — for the active man!
\$21.99 — \$29.95
\$39.95 — \$59.95

"GPO" WOOL SHIRTS
These are the heaviest weight wool shirts you can get. They are made in the great wool mills where the finest wool comes. You could wear! Super styling.
Colored Styles . . . \$19.99

DuoFold Underwear
• Drawers & Shorts—Regulars & Large
• Union Suits — Sizes 48 to 54

FLANNEL SHIRTS
Men's Favorite Heavyweight
Style With Long Tail