

Snow or No, Skiing Is Possible at New Resort

(COURIER NEWS SERVICE)

ELIZABETH, Ill. — Apparently not even summer will be able to keep skiers from the brand new Terrapin Ridge Ski Area, just completed near this northwestern Illinois town 35 miles east of Dubuque on Highway 20.

The manager of the new resort, John Balfanz, one of the finest skiers in the United States and a member of the U. S. Olympic team that competed at Innsbruck, Austria, last winter, says that plans for spring include the installation of plastic mats on the 60-meter jumping chute and landing area so that top quality skiers may train here the year around.

"This plastic equipment is even faster than regular snow," said Balfanz, whose wife is listed as one of five incorporators. "Ours will be the first jump area so equipped in the United States, although there are several in Japan, East Germany, Czechoslovakia, France, Russia, Austria, Finland and West Germany."

Balfanz, one of three jumpers chosen to represent the U. S. in European competition this winter, foresees a year-around training program to develop future jumpers and improve present ones.

There'll never be much doubt about skiing in the winter, either. The corporation has installed the latest in snowmaking equipment for use whenever Mother Nature falls down on the job. It will be used within a week even after a 12-inch snowfall to maintain the snow in top condition.

Six Alpine-type ski slopes vary from 1,200 to 2,000 feet with a vertical drop of 280 feet. Four tows provide uphill transportation, and 750 to 1,000 skiers can be accommodated daily at the resort.

President of the corporation is Wendell Chapin of Elizabeth, who also owns the Terrapin Ridge Manor Motel and Restaurant. Terrapin Ridge joins Chestnut Mountain Ski Resort as Jo-Daviess County's second skiing area, but it is the first jump in the area.