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BEHIND those ski masks on today's cover are these smiling faces. In front center is Janet Rodemeyer of Sheffield. Behind her is Sandy Cisna of Cedar Rapids. At left is Pamela Clay of Cedar Falls and at right is Becky Heddens of Wellsburg. All are Grinnell skiers.

The Mask Wearers on the Cover

Grinnell Puts Winter to Work In Physical Education Program

By Jack Magarrell

IOWA WINTERS cannot be ignored. They can be put up with or escaped from or made the most of. Grinnell College's winter sports program makes the most of opportunities for skiing, tobogganing and skating. The campus at Grinnell in the dead of winter is alive with outdoor activities.

The Ski Club, now in its third year, has grown by leaps and slaloms. Nearly one out of every 10 of Grinnell's 1,100 students has been clamping on skis this winter. The first year, with only a few students interested, a makeshift ski run on the Brooklyn golf course was used. Last year, a permanent ski run with rope tow was constructed at Sugar Creek Hill, a 10-minute drive east from the campus. A practice hill, modest enough to invite timid beginners, was created behind the gym this year by simply having city snow removal crews use that area as their dumping ground.

Indoor and even summer skiing practice is possible at Grinnell now with a bristled plastic mat. When a special silicone lubricant is sprayed on skis, the plastic mats act just like snow, instructors say. The plastic ski snow was invented by a former Iowan, Bruce Meyer, from Garnavillo, now of Chicago, and is now widely used.

Grinnell ski instructors Garnet Cox and Irv Simone say beginning skiing can be taught just as well in Iowa as in the nation's leading mountain ski resorts. In fact, the beginner is likely to feel more confident here where he is not surrounded by steep mountains and a lot of professional paraphernalia, they say.

The ski run at Sugar Creek Hill is described as good enough so even a skilled skier can practice without getting bored. Most of the student skiers have skied twice a week at Sugar Creek Hill, but some determined beginners were out nearly every day, getting ready for a late-winter ski trip to Aspen, Colo.

The 29 bus seats available for the Aspen trip were sold out two months in advance. About 20 students went on a weekend trip to Chestnut Hills at Hanover, Ill., earlier this month.

The bus shuttling skiers to nearby Sugar Creek Hill takes along students who seek the simpler snow thrills of the toboggan run there. Afternoon and flare-lit nighttime toboggan parties have been frequent.

For skaters, Grinnell has an outdoor artificial ice rink, Barber Skating Plaza, just outside the college library.

It is not unusual to see students carrying ice skates along with their books so they can take a relaxing break from studying with a few turns around the rink.

A skating professional from Des Moines gives weekly instruction for those who want to improve their skill. A student ice hockey team got off to a good start this year.

The winter sports activity at Grinnell is part of a year-around program of physical education and recreation which stresses doing instead of watching and individual interest rather than compulsory, regular gym classes.

The aim is to help students develop physical fitness habits and sports skills which will provide healthful enjoyment in later years.

JOAN FENNER, freshman from Cedar Falls, is helped to her feet after a fall by Stu During, a senior from Carlsbad, N. M.

CHRIS McLEAN, Hillsboro freshman, puts on a pair of skis for a session inside the gym where a mat does duty as "snow", summer or winter.

ON PLASTIC MAT inside the gym, Stu During, one of the better skiers, demonstrates a turn, using short skis.

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