



NICE Over Lightly

by M.B. COSSMAN

Ishpeming, nestled in the Upper Peninsula iron ore country, may seem as far away as the Antarctic to Flint's ski devotees, but as many as 15,000 spectators may flock to that community next Saturday and Sunday to watch the Nation's best skiers defy aptly-named "Suicide Hill" in the National Jumping Championships.

The hope of seeing a 300-foot jump, which the National Championship Manual says is possible at "Suicide," will help lure the throngs, even though no man ever has leaped more than 250 feet there. Wilbert Rasmussen, a high school freshman from Negaunee, Ishpeming's "twin city" and torrid athletic rival, did that last year for a record.

Such famed experts as National Champion Art Devlin of Lake Placid, N. Y.; Former Titlist Merrill Barber of Brattleboro, Vt.; Walter Bietila of Ishpeming and the visiting Swedish star, Erick Lindstrom, will challenge "Suicide," which, in reality, is two hills. The scaffold crowns the upper hill and jumpers soar off the takeoff at 60 to 70 miles an hour and land on the lower hill.

Sixth Ishpeming Course

The Suicide Hill course is the sixth in the history of the Ishpeming tournament's development, and the site of the Nationals has had four "major operations" since it was located in 1925. In 1929, improvements to the course made possible the first of the 200-foot jumps. Before this Winter riders had to leap about 100 feet to be certain of clearing the gap between the two hills, but last Summer an "apron" was installed, giving an almost continuous slope from the bottom of the hill to the very lip of the takeoff. The slide has been lengthened also in the hope of bringing the coveted 300-footer.

John Steve, who has been dispersing Upper Peninsula culture hereabouts the last few years, fills in some background on this hub of a specialized type of skiing—jumping:

Although this "Lake Placid of the Midwest" has been staging annual ski jumping tournaments for 60 years, this is the first National tourney in Ishpeming (Indian for "high ground") since 1906.

Back in 1888, when the Norden Ski Club held the first jumping meet ever run off in the Great Lakes district, Ole Sundlie won the Ishpeming championship with a jump of 35 feet.

Ishpeming not only has its famed jumping course, but also has a 280-acre layout including a variety of slopes for all classes of skiers, and claims to be the first and only club to offer free ski tows. Three ski tows are in operation this Winter, all of them without charge, 450 to 700 feet long, and the ski area is floodlighted three nights a week for skiing and tobogganing.

active. Anselm, the oldest brother, who came home with a prize more than two decades ago, has retired, and Paul, said to have been the greatest of all, met a tragic death following a skiing accident in 1939. Paul was national boys' champion in 1936, when he won nine consecutive victories for a record never threatened.

Roy, Ralph and Walter Bietila are Class A jumpers, while Leonard performs in the senior division.

Not Since 1905

Ishpeming is justly proud of its record as a ski capital, and claims to have sent more riders to more tournaments—and won more prizes—than any other club in America. In prewar days it was not unusual for Ishpeming riders to be entered in five or six tournaments the same day, and on several occasions, the club has had riders in five states the same day.

However, Ishpeming has not had a National Class A champion since Ole Westgard in 1905. Ishpeming's other National Class A titlist was Conrad Thompson in 1904, and both won before the home town fans. In 1906 Ole Feiring of Duluth won the last National meet held at Ishpeming.

The current American hill record is 289 feet, set by the late Torger Tøkle at Iron Mountain, another Upper Peninsula skiing center. The top jump of all was 350.69 feet, set by Joseph Bradl of Austria at Planica, Yugoslavia, in 1938, but Siglund Ruud of Norway predicted several years ago that skiers would some day jump more than 425 feet.

College Basketball

Purdue 56	Michigan 45
Toledo 75	Wayne 52
Olivet 55	St. Mary's 41
San Claire Ten. 92	Michigan Tech 42
Minnesota 59	Iowa 55
Indiana 69	Northwestern 43
Kentucky 63	Alabama 33
Oklahoma 63	Nebraska 49
North Carolina 53	South Carolina 47
Notre Dame 80	DePaul 45
Duquesne 63	Valparaiso 39
Fairmont 76	Davis Elkins 31
Furman 66	Clemson 53
Ohio Univ. 47	Xavier 46
Niagara 57	Buffalo 39
Manchester 48	Ball State 45
Grinnell 57	Chicago 43
Gonzaga 65	Seattle 64
San Diego 44	San Jose 39
Gannon 51	Alliance 43
LaSalle 72	Lebanon Valley 59
Centenary 58	SW Louisiana 55
Maryville 55	Hwassee 43
American U 54	Catholic U 33