

THE 1932 CANADIAN OLYMPIC SKI TEAM

By S. R. LOCKEBERG

Member Technical Board, Canadian Amateur Ski Association

ON DECEMBER 3, 1931, the President of the Canadian Amateur Ski Association, Mr. C. A. Snowdon, telephoned from Toronto asking me if I would undertake the selection and training of a ski team to represent

Canada in the Olympic Winter Games at Lake Placid in February. The job looked rather big, it entailed a great sacrifice of time in my busy season, the time was all too short, but I accepted as my duty, knowing I would receive full co-operation from all those who really had the interest of the sport at heart.

I found a most able and conscientious assistant in Mr. Louis Grimes of Ottawa, who gave up his entire time to aid me in my difficult undertaking. Extremely valuable services were also rendered by Mr. H. Smith-Johannsen of Montreal, Messrs. R. J. Verne and D. Holten, of Vancouver, B.C., to all of whom and others who assisted I am most grateful.

The Western Branch of the Association had already submitted the names of several candidates for the team, but naturalization requirements and financial obstacles prevented all but four from being entered. The General Canadian Olympic Committee on account of lack of funds could provide only the expenses and accommodation from Montreal to Lake Placid and return for twelve men, but several of our ski clubs made substantial contributions which helped a lot. This left eight men to be selected from Eastern Clubs, with room for four more to make up a full team of sixteen, should it be possible to finance them. Fortunately,



S. R. LOCKEBERG



COURTESY "LUCERNE-IN-QUEBEC"

three more succeeded in getting to Lake Placid and Canada had fifteen of her best skiers competing for the Olympic honours.

The easiest way to select the team would have been on a basis of individual performances for the last year or two, but this would hardly have been fair as many of our best skiers are not able to consistently remain at the top from year to year, and the younger men particularly show enormous improvement in a short time and frequently conquer their masters of the previous season. My duty was to pick the best without fear or favour so that Canada might show to advantage what she could produce in this, to her, comparatively new winter sport. Young blood was also essential as youth will more easily discard old methods, adopt improvements and benefit for the future from such an important international competition.

The list of entries had to be in the hands of the Lake Placid officials by January 20, so the time was short in which to provide sufficient opportunity to see the men in action and make the best selection. With the date of the Quebec Championship at Lucerne-in-Quebec advanced so that their splendid hill could be used in the Olympic trials, the skiers' relative standing and chances at Lake Placid could be fairly well estimated, as both jumping hills are quite similar. But, alas, the weather man disappointed us from week to week with high temperatures, and when the competitions were finally held, after being postponed several times, snow and weather conditions were such as to render the results of little value in selecting the team.

After carefully studying last year's performances and with due regard to present form, it was decided to send the following:—

JUMPING EVENT:—

Robert S. Lymburne, *Revelstoke Ski Club*
 Arnold V. Stone, *Grouse Mountain Ski Club*
 Jacques B. Landry, *Ottawa Ski Club*
 Leslie R. Gagne, *Montreal Ski Club*

COMBINED EVENT:—

Jostein Nordmoe, *Camrose Ski Club*
 D. Howard Bagguley, *Ottawa Ski Club*
 Arthur L. Gravel, *Montreal Ski Club*
 Ross L. Wilson, *Toronto Ski Club*

18-KILOMETRE RACE:—

John F. Currie, *Ottawa Ski Club*
 John P. Taylor, *Ottawa Ski Club*
 William D. Clark, *Ottawa Ski Club*
 A. Pangman, *Red Birds Ski Club, Montreal*

50-KILOMETRE RACE:—

Kaare Engstad, *Omenica Ski Club*
 David H. Douglas, *Ottawa Ski Club*
 W. Ryan, *Montreal Ski Club*

Under ordinary snow conditions and with additional competitions and further training, the make-up of the team might have been slightly different.

Arrangements had been made with the Lucerne-in-Quebec corporation for the Olympic Team to have two weeks training on their hill and trials before leaving for Lake Placid, and it proved to be of great benefit. The sports director at Lucerne, Mr. Gorman Kennedy, made sure that our boys were well fed and looked after, and that the hill and trails were kept in the best condition possible notwithstanding the lack of snow. I wish to formally express my thanks to all at Lucerne for their co-operation and courtesy. Some of the members of the Swedish Olympic Team under the direction

of Mr. Axel Norling also spent a week training at Lucerne with the Canadians. Sven Erikson, the best combined skier of the Swedish Team, showed us what would be required to get into the prize list at the Olympic Games, and the presence of the Swedes during training was certainly to our benefit.

After having attended to private affairs, and such things as birth certificates, passports, etc., the team reassembled in Montreal on February 1. A representative delegation headed by Mr. H. P. Douglas, the energetic organizer and for ten years continuously President of the C.A.S.A., gave us a hearty send-off, and we arrived at Lake Placid the next day with the grim determination of doing our best in the hard struggle for supremacy, which was to commence a few days later.

Excellent accommodation had been provided for us at the Lake Placid Club, and the management of this fine establishment certainly looked after our comfort to perfection. There were repair shops where the skiers could have their equipment kept in good shape, and recreation rooms, libraries, etc., to make it comfortable after a hard day's work. The food was the very best, and we could have anything special for the asking at any time.

We lost no time in getting acquainted with the teams from the other countries, and had a few more days of valuable training with the results that our men finished higher up the list than had been expected.

Mild weather with lack of snow and plenty of rain almost succeeded in ruining the Games, but the American officials worked day and night with a big army of men covering up the trails and hauling snow on the hills, and had everything in as good condition as was possible under the circumstances. It is doubtful if any other nation would have carried out the program under such adverse conditions, and great credit

was due to our American friends for making it the success they did.

Our team placed as follows in the different events:—

18-KILOMETRE RACE—A. H. Pangman, 35; W. G. Clark, 38; John P. Taylor, 39; John Currie, 40.

50-KILOMETRE RACE—K. Engstad, 16; H. Douglas, time not recorded; W. Ryan, time not recorded.

COMBINED EVENT—J. Nordmoe, 10; H. D. Bagguley, 24; A. L. Gravel, 30; R. F. Wilson, 31.

JUMPING—R. Lymburne, 19; J. Landry, 20; A. Stone, 29; L. Gagne, 30.

Weather conditions taxed the skiers' skill to the utmost, and during the 50-kilometre race a snowstorm set in with the result that out of thirty-two starters the time was only recorded for twenty.

The Canadian Team suffered no illness or accidents during their training or competitions; and neither had they any mishaps with their equipment. They conducted themselves in an excellent manner all the way through, making it very pleasant for those in charge and those with whom they associated. They returned to Canada richer in experience and with increased knowledge of skiing technique which no doubt will have a beneficial effect on future skiing here.

The honour of being selected as a judge in the special jumping event was a pleasant surprise to me, and I was equally glad to see Louis Grimes appointed as official marker.

As for myself, I must say that it was a pleasant undertaking from beginning to end, largely due to the arrangements Mr. Snowdon had made in all instances, and to the good work of all other officials of the C.A.S.A.

Let us hope that skiing here will advance sufficiently to enable us to produce a team for the 1936 Olympic Games in Germany strong enough to bring back some of the major honours.

IMPRESSIONS of the THIRD WINTER OLYMPIC GAMES

By FRED H. HARRIS

Former President Eastern U.S. Amateur Ski Association

THE OLYMPIC GAMES were originally organized for the promotion of international goodwill and fellowship. I think that the first Winter Olympic Games ever held on this continent were entirely successful in this respect. In spite of the inevitable arguments which arose in connection with certain events, I am fully convinced that the competitors, coaches, and officials left Lake Placid with a feeling of mutual respect

and goodwill. The arguments in connection with the speed skating races, the bobsled run, etc., were exaggerated by the papers all out of proportion. The actual facts were that all concerned showed forbearance and good sportsmanship to such an extent that practically all disputes were ironed out with the minimum of friction.

The great lengths to which the little town of Lake Placid went to provide splendid

facilities for the Games and the great courage which all concerned showed to make them a success represents a struggle which is epic in the annals of sporting history. When a little town votes to bond itself for \$200,000 to provide money for the general fund and later bonds itself again for an additional \$225,000 to provide an indoor arena to insure the success of the figure skating and hockey events, to say nothing of many additional expenses, I think the whole world should feel outright admiration for the citizens of such a community. In appropriating \$175,000 for the construction of the Olympic bobsled run and for many other acts of co-operation, the State of New York should receive heartfelt thanks. The total cost of the Games, I am told, extended to a sum far above \$1,000,000.

In spite of a great deal of grief in connection with weather, every event went off on schedule with the exception of the 50-kilometre ski race which was delayed a few hours in starting when the course had to be changed on account of the lack of snow on certain lower parts of the original course. In the year which will go down in history as "the year without a winter" this is indeed an accomplishment. In flying to and from Lake Placid I noticed the ground was almost bare everywhere except in the immediate vicinity of Lake Placid, so it is doubtful if the Games under these unusual circumstances could have been carried through anywhere else in the Eastern United States.

The opening exercises were most impressive. The contingent wearing the Maple Leaf of Canada looked splendid as it passed by the officials' stand occupied by Governor Roosevelt of New York. It was inspiring to see the flags of seventeen different nations followed by the squads of these respective countries. All through the Games it was interesting to study the faces of the representatives of the different nationalities, to hear the different languages, and to feel the cosmopolitan atmosphere.

The ice was in perfect condition for the start of the speed skating and these events were of absorbing interest. Although there are arguments on both sides, I feel they are all in favor of the North American rules which call for racing man against man and not against time. Possibly in future games a compromise between the International rules and the North American rules will be effected.

Although many of the spectators were not versed in the art and intricacies of figure skating, these events were most popular, and when the finals took place it was next to impossible to get a seat in the indoor arena. To see such champions as Sonja Henie of

Norway, Karl Schaefer of Austria, and the many other experts in action was a great privilege and they received hearty applause.

The hockey games were thrilling and the final was tense with interest. The United States expected to be outclassed by Canada in hockey, but apparently has progressed sufficiently to give the Canadians good competition, for there was no more than a "postage stamp's" difference between the showings of the two teams. By drawing on its reserve and skill, Canada won by the smallest of margins.

Perhaps due to the accidents to the German teams and the resulting publicity, the bobsled races drew huge throngs and this new sport seems to have become a fixture in this country.

To the writer the ski events were naturally of the greatest interest. Sven Utterstrom of Sweden, favorite to win the long race, furnished a surprise by coming in first in the 18-kilometre race over a course which might have been more satisfactory if it had provided more up and down running, but which nevertheless furnished a real test for any racer's ability. In the last third of the race the route down Mount Whitney furnished an acid test for a ski runner's skill. In the 50-kilometre race two Finns finished first and second, with Norway capturing the next few places. Sven Utterstrom had to be satisfied with sixth place, but he had already done his bit for his country in the shorter event. Johan Grottnumsbraaten gave added points to Norway in repeating his victory at San Moritz in 1928 by winning the combined event at Lake Placid.

It was my privilege to serve on the "Jury de Terrain," or ground jury, and I have the greatest of admiration for the manner in which Ingv Smith-Kielland of Norway, chairman of the jury, carried out his duties. He not only knew perhaps as well as any man in the world how ski events should be conducted but he was indefatigable in carrying out the smallest details. He would not take anybody's word for the smallest item but insisted on making a thorough examination of every detail. Axel Norling of Sweden was also most expert. These men personally inspected every inch of the 18-kilometre race course and the original 50-kilometre course. I wonder if the competitors appreciated the vast amount of work put in by these gentlemen and the other officials in making the ski events such a success? I think a very high order of excellency was obtained in the officiating of the ski events.

The event which seemed to create keenest interest among the spectators was the ski jumping. This will undoubtedly go down in

history as one of the most outstanding competitions ever held. When no competitor who is not jumping 215 feet or over is not even in the running and when the winner is marked 19 to 19½ out of a possible 20 on form, the high order of the performances is indicated. The hill was in splendid condition and I have never seen such marvelous jumping. Of course, the competitors were over-jumping the hill. This is shown by the fact that 71½ metres was made on the hill only designed for maximum jumps of 60 metres, but the fact that the winners "got away with it" and there were only four or five falling jumps out of a total of about 105 jumps shows that the technical jury in charge of the arranging were not very wrong, and that the spectators were given an even greater exhibition on account of the long

distances made even if the jumpers did land on the up curve of the landing slope. One of the surprises of the competition was the marvelous performance of one of the Japanese boys, especially so since Japan has only entered this kind of sport within recent years. Casper Oimen, champion of the United States, in my opinion should receive much credit for jumping 63½ and 67½ metres, which gave him third place as far as distance went. The wonderful confidence, gracefulness, skill, and complete mastery of both their bodies and their skis which the Norwegians showed in the air was an eye-opener to the followers of the art of ski jumping. I believe a higher degree of excellency was shown in the ski jumping than in any of the other sports on the Olympic program. It was very near perfection.

OFFICIAL SKI RESULTS OLYMPIC WINTER GAMES LAKE PLACID, N.Y.

18-KILOMETRE SKI RACE

	Time		Time
1 Utterström, Sweden	1.23.07	22 Cifka, Czechoslovakia	1.38.24
2 Vikoström, Sweden	1.25.07	23 Zetterstrom, United States	1.38.26
3 Saarinen, Finland	1.25.24	24 Secretan, France	1.38.39
4 Lappalainen, M., Finland	1.26.31	25 Veurich, Italy	1.38.42
5 Rustadstuen, Norway	1.27.06	26 Solda, Italy	1.39.43
6 Grøttumsbraaten, Norway	1.27.15	27 Marusz, S., Poland	1.39.56
7 Toikka, Finland	1.27.51	28 Parsons, United States	1.40.08
8 Stenen, Norway	1.28.05	29 Paumgarten, Austria	1.41.20
9 Liikkanen, Finland	1.28.30	30 Mugnier, France	1.41.34
10 Svärd, Sweden	1.29.05	31 Skupien, Poland	1.41.48
11 Mattsson, Sweden	1.29.54	32 Motyka, Poland	1.41.58
12 Kuriyagawa, Japan	1.31.34	33 Monsen, United States	1.42.36
13 Hovde, Norway	1.32.48	34 Menardi, Italy	1.43.04
14 Novak, Czechoslovakia	1.32.59	35 Pangman, Canada	1.43.12
15 Tsubokawa, Japan	1.33.15	36 Berthet, France	1.43.38
16 Barton, Czechoslovakia	1.33.39	37 Iwasaki, Japan	1.44.07
17 Hoshina, Japan	1.35.47	38 Clark, Canada	1.46.33
18 Czech, Poland	1.36.37	39 Taylor, Canada	1.48.11
19 Cretin, France	1.36.42	40 Currie, Canada	1.49.03
20 Feistauer, Czechoslovakia	1.37.55	41 Höll, Austria	1.55.18
21 Bosio, Austria	1.38.23	42 Andersen, United States	1.58.13

50-KILOMETRE SKI RACE

	Time		Time
1 Saarinen, Finland	4.28.00	11 Novak, Czechoslovakia	4.52.44
2 Liikkanen, Finland	4.28.20	12 Sertorelli, Italy	4.59.00
3 Rustadstuen, Norway	4.31.53	13 Feistauer, Czechoslovakia	5.00.19
4 Hegge, Norway	4.32.04	14 Cifka, Czechoslovakia	5.01.50
5 Vestad, Norway	4.32.40	15 Parsons, United States	5.13.59
6 Utterström, Sweden	4.33.25	16 Engstad, Canada	5.19.19
7 Lappalainen, T., Finland	4.45.02	17 Ageishi, Japan	5.19.31
8 Lindgren, Sweden	4.47.22	18 Iwasaki, Japan	5.21.40
9 Jonsson, Sweden	4.49.52	19 Backstrom, United States	5.25.40
10 Barton, Czechoslovakia	4.52.24	20 Reid, United States	5.26.06

No time recorded for the following starters: Billings, Delago, De Zulian, Douglas, Kuriyagawa, Lappalainen M., Mattsson, Motyka, Ryan, Skupien, Stenen, Taniguchi.