

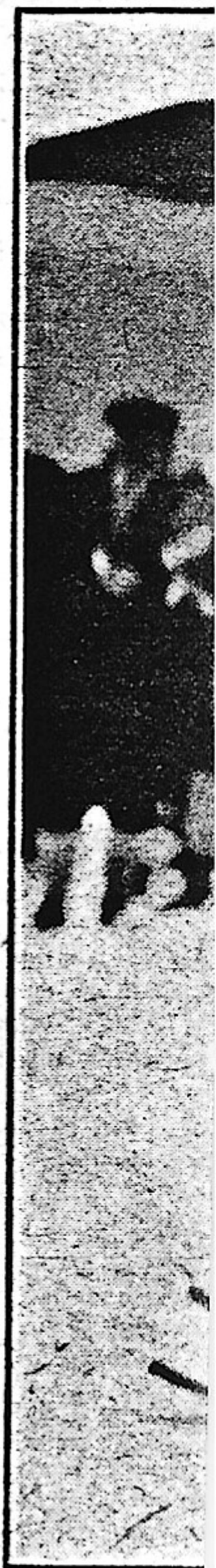
THIRD WESTERN CANADA CHAMPIONSHIP

THE feature event of the Western Canada Ski Season was ably staged by the world-renowned Revelstoke Ski Club during the first week of February, 1930. The greatest gathering of amateur ski stars, representing the greatest number of Western Clubs, testified forcibly that Revelstoke with its historic traditions in ski-ing still holds its front rank place as a centre for the ski sport in the West. The only disappointing incident was the absence of representatives from the far eastern ski clubs, who had been invited by wire to send along some of their members of the Olympic Ski Team. It is to be hoped, however, that the East will send a picked team to the Dominion Championship at Revelstoke this coming season and thus reciprocate the courtesy of the West, who for a great many years, and particularly Revelstoke, has sent competitors to the Dominion Tournaments in the East.

The opening event in the Western Combined Championship Tournament, the fifteen miles cross-country race, presented a formidable task to the many aspirants for the coveted title as a persistent fall of snow made tracking of the course extremely difficult. In the morning on the day of the race, Tuesday, February 4, the snow was still falling heavily enough to almost obliterate the course. This necessitated a new survey of the track but it was found almost impossible to get skiers to volunteer for the job as everybody was most cunningly saving their well-needed reserve of energy for the race, well knowing it would be a particularly trying one under the prevailing conditions. Only first-class skiers would fill the job, as there was not a large enough margin of time to allow others to give a helping hand. Under such circumstances it is indeed a great credit to the Revelstoke Ski Club members, and especially the captain of the Club, Nels Nelsen, who showed their great sportmanship by traversing the hardgoing course themselves, well knowing that by doing so they definitely lost their chance of securing enough points to even be in the running as far as the aggregate for the combined score was concerned. Incidentally this feat was the most outstanding proof of true sportmanship during the whole ski season and was appropriately recognized by the action of the president of the Branch who later presented Nels Nelsen with a gold-medal with the inscription "For sportmanship."

As was anticipated, the race developed into a gruelling contest over an immensely hard-going track. The waxing of the skis played an all-important part in the race and no one seemed to have hit the right "dope," although there was a noticeable difference in the glide. But nobody found it easy, and heart-rending scenes were enacted all along the course. Here and there could be seen groups of two and three skiers standing knee-deep in snow scraping and re-waxing their skis, some of them utterly disgusted, while others were more humorously inclined, asking the more lucky passers-by for a cigarette. A couple of youngsters with feet-deep snow clogging to their hickories took their medicine with tears in their eyes and "mushed" back home on foot, determined to pay more attention to the mysterious art of using ski wax. The old experienced surdoughs of many a great race—Sandnes, Jorstad, Nordmoe, and Sandstrom—were the highlights of the day, it was easily noticed, and they were chasing each other to death over the slow course, stamina playing a very important part. Nils Jorstad of Norge Ski Club, Winnipeg, cinched the race and the 20 points score by making the distance in 1.20.23. No. 2 was Pete Sandnes of Burns Lake with 1.20.29; No. 3 Eric Sandstrom of Viking Club, Vancouver, 1.25.15; No. 4 Joslyn Nordmoe of Camrose Ski Club, 1.27.28; No. 5 Ivor Knudsen of Princeton Ski Club, 1.27.36; No. 6 K. Engstad of Burns Lake B.C., 1.27.31; No. 7 Finn Fladmark, Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club, Vancouver, 1.31.23; No. 8 Axel Sneis, Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club, 1.32.43; H. Gunnarson of Revelstoke, K. Lindaas, Burns Lake, and O. Tellefson, Grouse Mountain Ski Club, Vancouver, followed in order mentioned.

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In the Class B Race, Bill Waterman of Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club, Vancouver, sprung a real surprise, thanks to proper waxing, and came in a winner over the half senior distance course in 56.03; Couffin, Revelstoke Ski Club, second, 57.35; McRae, Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club, third, 1.01.32; H. Jamieson, Revelstoke Ski Club, fourth, 1.05.49; and W. Walkinshaw, Grouse Mountain Ski Club, fifth, in 1.07.15.

The ladies cross-country race was gracefully carried off with Mrs. Turnroos of Revelstoke Ski Club just nosing out the plucky Vancouver entrant, Miss Daisy Bourdon, both putting up a great race.

The Championship Jumping event attracted some two thousand eager spectators, many of whom had travelled as many miles to see the spectacular contest. Never before in the history of Western skiing had so many clubs been represented by such a large number of clever performers at a Revelstoke tournament. The weather conditions were ideal as far as the onlookers were



PAUL GOTAAS OF CAMROSE, ALBERTA

concerned but the snow conditions almost touched the danger line as mild temperature had made the snow surface of the hill somewhat treacherous. On account thereof officials in charge advised against using the extreme starting points. Pete Sandnes, of Burns Lake, B.C. battled his way to the top on the scoring card after the closest contest on record in Canadian Skiing history, winning over gallant Niels Jorstad of Winnipeg with the scant margin of a thousand part of a point, Sandnes' combined mark being 17.829, and Jorstad's 17.828. Joslyn Nordmoe of Camrose, Champion of Canada, placed third.

Nels Nelsen of Revelstoke, through his sportsmanlike act of foregoing his chances in the cross-country race to put the track in good condition for fellow competitors, was out of the running in the combined jumping event. In the special jumping contest, however, he upheld his fame as distance jumper

by registering a leap of 173 feet, the longest jump of the meet. Taking in consideration the unfavourable snow conditions, this was indeed a most remarkable performance. The most dramatic incident during the whole tournament was furnished by K. Engstad of Burns Lake, formerly of Camrose, Alta., who in some way misjudged the intense speed of this unusually steep hill and practically "missed" the take-off, with the result that his skis got tilted dangerously forward. The air-pressure proved too strong and in spite of his valiant efforts to right himself while in mid-air, the points of his skis turned more and more downwards until he landed with the skis in a perpendicular position, the points digging deep down in the snow throwing him with a terrific impact on his neck as both skis broke in splinters. Anxious onlookers feared that the jumper was in grave danger but it was later announced that no serious injuries had been sustained, but the severe shaking-up necessitated several weeks in the local hospital where every possible attention and great kindness was shown the plucky skier.

The competing skiers were feted by the popular Revelstoke Ski Club President, Mr. Drennan Holten, at a most enjoyable at-home in his residence, where the guest of honour for the evening, Mayor Malkin of Vancouver, voiced his keen interest and appreciation of the wonderful hospitality and splendid arrangements in connection with this very successful tournament. Later in the evening special ski dances were staged in several large halls, the impressive distribution of prizes being sponsored by Mayor Malkin, who certainly made a great hit with all the skiers.

Local officials of the Revelstoke Ski Club, as well as the sport-loving residents of the city, deserve a very special compliment for the unfailing interest and skill with which they had succeeded in putting over the biggest and best sports event in not only the history of the city but the whole West. Such a compliment has indeed been conveyed to Revelstoke in as much as the Canadian Amateur Ski Association, after a vote of all ski clubs in Canada, has been awarded the Dominion Championship Tournament for the 1930-31 season to be held during the first part of February next. This is the first time in the history of Western ski-ing that such an important event has been held in the West, and it is to be hoped that every ski club and every ski enthusiast throughout this Western territory will help Revelstoke make the Tournament a great success. Our ski-ing friends in the East will be most cordially invited to send a representative ski team to the Revelstoke Tournament, which without them would be devoid of the stellar attraction it is justly entitled to. We therefore confidently hope that our eastern ski colleagues will gallantly reciprocate the visits of western skiers to their own championship meets and send a large number of skiers to Revelstoke in February, 1931.

RUDOLPH J. VERNE,
President, Western Branch, C.A.S.A.