

Gault Gillespie Winner Canadian Ski Title

**Young Ste. Agathe Skier Captures
Cross-Country at Fort William—Johnny Veit
Drops Out After Two Miles.**

FORT WILLIAM, Feb. 24.—(CP)—Gault Gillespie, curly-headed 23-year-old who started skiing to speed his youthful trips to and from school at Ste. Agathe, Que., won the Canadian cross-country ski championship today in his second attempt.

Gillespie ran the rolling trails at the foot of rugged Mount McKay in one hour, 27 minutes, 53 seconds, to win from the veteran Sudbury Finn, Paul Jansson, by just three seconds for the 18 kilometres, approximately 11.2 miles. Kurt Lovgren of Temiskaming, Ont., was third, two minutes and one second behind the winner.

It was vital youth against experienced age in the cross-country grind and the burly Gillespie said he threw everything he had to nose out the 46-year-old Jansson who won his first race in his native Finland in 1908. Jansson won the Northern Ontario cross-country only last week in North Bay.

More Rolling Course.

Gillespie finished fourth in the 18-kilometre event last year at Ottawa, only 14 seconds behind the winner, Bruce Heggveit of Ottawa, who ran a more rolling course than Fort William's in an hour, 12 minutes, four seconds.

Experts said today's slower time was due to extreme cold—it was 17 below zero shortly before the race—which cut the "slide" speed and made it difficult to judge the wax. Jansson was eighth last year, three minutes, 14 seconds, behind Heggveit.

The cross-country was the only championship event as the three-day national meet opened.

Gertie Wepsala, of Vancouver, Dominion women's combined slalom-downhill champion, won an invitation downhill race from 12 other girl stars in 31 3-5 seconds. Tomorrow the men's downhill

race will be run in the morning with the slalom in the afternoon. The 19th annual meet concludes Sunday with the jumping and an invitation women's slalom.

Gillespie, representing the Esterel Sporting Club of Ste. Marguerite, Que., attributed his cross-country win to his speed on the up-slopes. He, too, found his slide reduced by the cold-powdered snow and failed to get expected downhill speed. Quebec provincial cross-country champion, Gillespie started to ski a dozen years ago because he lived two miles from the school in Ste. Agathe and found he could save precious time by running the tree-bordered trails on wooden runners. Gault now works in a ski shop in Ste. Agathe.

Gillespie finished in better condition than Jansson although the Finn, despite his years, sputted strongly to bring cheers from a crowd of 500 lining the finish line. Eric Judeen, of Duluth, Minn., was fourth, Einar Makenen, of Port Arthur, fifth, and Pete Fosside, of Duluth, sixth.

Other Finishers.

Other finishers in less than an hour, 40 minutes, were Ole Bakkelund, Temiskaming, Harold Moe, of Lutsen, Minn., Harry Pangman, of Montreal, and Erni Impola, Sudbury. Impola finished seventh in 1938, just ahead of Jansson, and Pangman was 10th last year. Bill Cook, of Toronto, finished 11th today in 1:44.22, Nils Jortstad, of Winnipeg, 12th in 1:45.43, Henry Lahtenpaa, Port Arthur, 13th, in 1:48.19, Fred Rolland, of Montreal, next in 1:52.46 and Eugne Mosiondz of Port Arthur last of the 15 finishers in 2:04.48.

Johnny Veit, of Ottawa, sixth in 1938, and a favorite for today's race dropped out after two miles because of a stomach sickness. Uno Penramaki, of Fort William, also failed to finish and Alfred Brenner, of Toronto, scratched just before the race to cut the field of starters to 17.