

Montreal Ski Runner Annexes Canadian Cross-Country Title

Running the heavy, wet-snow, 11-mile course in time of 1 hour, 43 minutes and 46 seconds, Chris Allenbach, 28-year-old Montreal bricklayer, captured the Canadian cross-country ski racing title on Saturday at Camp Fortune. Runner-up was Olavi Haukioja, 25-year-old Finnish-born logger from Sudbury, who aggregated time of 1 hour, 46 minutes and 21 seconds for the long grind. Defending champion Milo Itkonner, of Prince George, B.C., collapsed a mile from the finishing line and did not finish. By his win Allenbach gained his first leg on the Devlin Bowl.

Conditions for the race were almost unparalleled in the history of Canadian championship ski racing, the temperature reading 52 degrees as the racers wended their way over the Gati-neau hills under spring-like conditions. The heavy snow slowed up the contestants to such an extent that they required about 25 more minutes to negotiate the course than they would have needed had fast snow conditions prevailed. When Claude Richer, of Ottawa, captured the Canadian title in 1951 over the same course he recorded time of 1 hour, 18 minutes and 14 seconds. Richer did not enter the race as expected.

Contestants left the starting

line at minute intervals. Allenbach ran fourteenth and, improving as the race progressed, passed everyone who started ahead of him, except Haukioja. Defending champion Milo Itkonner set too fast a pace and, after leading the field at the three-mile mark, tired rapidly and dropped out of the race a mile from the finishing line. Rodolph Wasmeler, of the Ottawa Ski Club, ran a heady race to place fourth in the starry field with time of 1.56.26.

The race winner arrived in Montreal 17 months ago from Switzerland. He represented his native land in both the 1948 Olympic Games and the 1950 World Ski Championships. He is a former 18-kilometer cross-country champion of Switzerland.

Ottawans Prominent

Dave McIntyre, of Ottawa, gave a standout display to finish in seventh place, with time of 2 hours, 3 minutes and 47 seconds. John Gammell, another Ottawa entrant, copped ninth place. Karre Olsen, of Red Birds Ski Club of Montreal, provided the gallery with a smile when, after crossing the finish line, he remarked "I did not know there were so many hills in Eastern Canada."

The Ottawa Ski Club Trail Riders marked the course.

The results:

1. Theo Allenbach, Viking SC., Montreal	1.43.46
2. Olavi Haukioja, AC "Voima", Sudbury	1.46.21
3. Joseph Sharp, Nickleteen SC., Sudbury	1.54.46
4. Rodolph Wasmeler, Ottawa SC., Ottawa	1.56.26
5. Karl Martisch, Sault Ste. Marie SC.	1.59.40
6. Andy Huggesson, Red Birds SC., Montreal	1.59.54
7. Dave McIntyre, Ottawa SC., Ottawa	2.03.47
8. Jack Wahlberg, Viking SC., Montreal	2.04.33
9. John Gammell, Ottawa SC., Ottawa	2.05.51
10. Hans Konov, Viking SC., Montreal	2.06.17
11. Uno Rastus, Morin Heights, SC., Morin Heights	2.11.34
12. Leif Svendsen, Toronto SC., Toronto	2.24.47