

FIRST WESTERN CANADA CHAMPIONSHIP

THE first Western Canada Championship (Combined) Ski Tournament was held by the Banff Ski Club in conjunction with the Banff Annual Winter Carnival on February 8 and 9, 1928, under the supervision of Rudolph J. Verne, who had obtained sanction for the meet from the C.A.S.A. President, Mr. H. P. Douglas. Messrs. Cliff White and Cyril Paris of the local club were responsible for the arrangements and their able work deserves a word of praise. The hill was in fine condition and the weather favourable, with just a few degrees of frost. Nearly two thousand people gathered for the big event and everybody displayed keen interest in the tournament. Immediately before the competition opened, R. J. Verne in a brief address drew the attention of the spectators to the fact that this was the first time in the history of the ski sport in the West that an authorized Western Championship Tournament was staged under the rules and regulations of the International Ski Federation. The significance thereof was explained and commented on, and the skiers were then introduced to the public. There were eleven contestants in all.

The events were run off without a hitch and the performances were on the whole very creditable. J. Nordmoe of Camrose Ski Club captured first honours with a point total of 18.375; O. Tellefsen of Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club, Vancouver, came second with 16.562 points; T. Jacobsen of Camrose was third with 14.250 points; H. Larsen fourth with 14 points; I. Larsen fifth with 13.937 points and A. Rogstad, all of Camrose, sixth with 13.687 points.

The Cross-Country Race over approximately ten miles was won by K. Engstad in 49 mins. 30 secs.; second, T. Jacobsen, 50 mins. 37 secs.; third, J. Nordmoe, 51 mins. 17 secs; fourth, P. Gotaas, 51 mins. 36 secs.; fifth, S. Haakenstad, 51 mins. 45 secs; sixth, O. Tellefsen, 52. mins. 5 secs. The course was a rather difficult one and several of the skiers experienced mishaps such as broken skis, etc.

The final result of the Combined Competition was as follows:—First, J. Nordmoe of Camrose, with 37.058 points, winner of Western Canada Amateur Championship; second, O. Tellefsen of Vancouver, B.C., 33.968 points; third, T. Jacobson of Camrose, 33.376 points; fourth, K. Engstad of Camrose, 31.438 points; fifth, S. Haakenstad, 29.438 points; sixth, A. Rogstad, 24.156 points.

In the special competition for longest standing jump, O. Tellefsen of Hollyburn Pacific Ski Club, Vancouver, beat J. Nordmoe of Camrose with a fine leap of 137½ feet, 2½ feet to the good. Nordmoe was awarded the Scandinavian Cup for best form.

The results of the competitions as a whole were very gratifying indeed and some excellent performances were displayed in all events. In the jumping competitions O. Tellefsen, the West's candidate for the Olympic Games, proved conclusively his outstanding ability as a jumper on a big hill and received an ovation from the crowd after his leap in the long standing event.

J. Nordmoe of Camrose jumped fully up to his reputation and made a fine impression with his good form and strong landings.

The tournament was carried out very successfully and it was generally agreed by competitors as well as spectators that it was the greatest ever staged in the West. This reflects credit on the C.A.S.A. and Banff Ski Club officials for the able way in which this first Western Ski Championship meet was handled, for not only was there a record crowd but it was the first time since the inauguration of The Banff Annual Winter Carnival in 1924 that the ski jumping end of the Carnival fully paid for itself.

RUDOLPH J. VERNE.