

VIKING SKI CLUB

THE Viking Athletic Club of Vancouver, B.C., was organized in 1922 by R. J. Verne and carried on successfully until 1929, when it was reorganized under the presidency of Professor P. A. Boving of the University of British Columbia. At this time its program was enlarged to include beside track and field, football and winter sports in all its different branches. A special ski section was then instituted and the Club joined the Western Branch of the C.A.S.A., being represented at the Western Title meet at Revelstoke by Eric Sandstrom, who placed third in the long distance race. Sandstrom also took part in the Western 50-Kilometre Championship contest at Burns Lake, B.C., where he covered the distance (which proved two kilometres longer than previously figured) in the exceptionally good time of 4 hours 35 minutes 50 seconds, eight minutes ahead of the second man, the hitherto unbeaten king of the West, Paul Gotaas of Camrose, Alberta. This mark stands out as the best record for the Olympic distance on the American Continent. The time was so much more remarkable as the competitors, had to battle a terrific snowstorm for over an hour.



ERIC SANDSTROM

Sandstrom, although quite unknown in the West, has a rather illustrious career behind him from his activities in Sweden, where he was a candidate for the Olympic Games in 1924. He was then considered too young for the team. His last season's feat was, however, much commented on in Sweden and efforts are being made from that source to represent his native country at Lake Placid in 1932, together with a couple of Swedish American ski runners who showed up well last season against the pick of the United States. In this connection it is highly regrettable that on account of the Canadian rules stipulating citizenship and five years residence in Canada, a good man like Sandstrom is denied the privilege of representing the Dominion, which he would very much like to.

This season the Viking Ski Club will field another strong man, who specializes on the 15- and 18-kilometre Olympic distances—Frank Jakobson, one of the better known long distance

men in Sweden. He is a newcomer to the West but is going into hard training for the Dominion Championship event at Revelstoke, B.C. in February next.

At the general meeting of the different sections of the Viking Athletic Club at Vancouver on October 17, the following officials were unanimously elected to take care of the activities of the Viking Ski Club:—Rudolph J. Verne, *Chairman*; Uno Hillstrom and Martin Howander.

Mr. Hillstrom is a decided acquisition for the Club from a ski point of view as he is known all over the West as one of the most finished performers in the game, and is a very popular figure among the ski-ing fraternity in British Columbia.

Martin Howander will be of considerable advantage to the organization, being one of Sweden's foremost athletic masseurs. He will consequently be of greatest value in keeping the Western candidates for the Olympic Games at Lake Placid in first-class trim, which he has very kindly offered to do.