

# Western Competitors

By Victor Kutchera

OUR big hill on Mount Norquay is sure to attract in March the cream of the West's best jumpers, Canadian and American. The former should include Hans Gunnarson, Ivind Nelsen of Revelstoke; P. Bjrnson and Harold Larsen of Camrose; Henry Sotvedt, Finn Fladmark, Fred Finckenhagen, Nordahl Kaldahl, Arne Watn, Harold Belsvik and Tom Mobraaten of the city of Vancouver, B.C.; Knute Nysven of Francois Lake, B.C., and K. Lindaas of Burns Lake. American stars should include Halvor Mikkelsen, his brother Roy, and the invincible Hjalmar Hvam. And from Banff itself, Reginald Krowchuck and Arthur Williams.

The Norquay hill is well constructed, somewhat like the Intervales Hill at Lake Placid, and has a landing slope of about 60 to 75 metres with a very adequate outrun at the bottom.

Eastern langlaufers will discover a great variety of trails for training and should meet some hard competition in the west. There should be Camrose stars like tenacious Paul Gotaas and Harold Larsen; Hans Gunnarson and Coffin of Revelstoke; Knute Nysven, K. Lindaas and O. Martinsen of Burns Lake, B.C.; Harold Belsvik, Arne Watn, Lindsay Loutet, Nordahl Kaldahl, Henry Sotvedt and Fred Finckenhagen, as well as Tom Mobraaten of 1936 Olympic fame, all of the ski-minded city of Vancouver, B.C.; and the Americans, Halvor Mikkelsen, Sigurd Vettestad and the dangerous Hjalmar Hvam.

Hjalmar Hvam will be America's "combined threat"—in the downhill he is certain to place on the top, and even the combined slalom will see his name amongst such as Darroch Crookes, Carleton Weigel, Ken Syverson, Paul Sceva, redoubtable Don Fraser and other Washington State stars.

Vancouver's slalom chances are good. Hamish Davidson has a dangerous crew in dashing Jack Taylor, Western Canadian downhill and

slalom champion, 1936, at Banff), genial and smooth-running Kay Hague, an "old timer" by now, well known and liked by many an easterner, Gordon Harrington, Loll Killam, Chuck Gillespie, Jack Richardson, J. S. Shakespear, Stan Body, "Ace" Lindsay, D. Holliday and Tom Mobraaten with recent alpine experience during the 1936 Olympic Games at Garmisch Partenkirchen.

Banff's old guard, Ted Paris, Rupert Edwards and the slalomist, Norman K. Knight, will be quite a problem to visiting competitors. There are also Ted Paris' twin brother, Herbert, the youthful but most successful Stan Ward, and many other youngsters who may do brilliantly.

Very interesting, indeed, should be the slalom. Though the East specializes in this form of competitive ski-ing, eastern runners will find a difference. It will not be so much in style as in the greater vertical height of our slaloms at Banff. Three hundred vertical metres featured our big Western Canadian Championship Slalom in 1936, run under the auspices of the C.A.S.A., and under F.I.S. rulings, resembling the principal continental meets. We will use the big, heavy F.I.S. poles and set the course accordingly next March.

The Specialists' Slalom Event is the thing I shall enjoy most, as this will be not counted in the "combined score" and competitors may use their own special ski.

Nowhere is a downhill skier's ability better shown than in a well set, fast and tricky, scientific slalom. The "Torlauf" encourages extremely quick thinking and beautiful, exacting running. Erratic performances will never

win a difficult slalom. Who can tell me of a more beautiful sight, than the one of a lanky, graceful runner speeding under superb control in smooth, rhythmic parallel swings through a close set tailygram or a steep straight flush? Observe how he winds his way confidently amongst a maze of confus-



The Norquay Ski Camp at Banff, Alta.

ing obstacles, how his lithe body dips and rises rhythmically in every turn. His weight is always unbelievably far forward while his swishing hickories barely miss the inside poles as he "shaves" through the gates.

After the competitions will be the time for us to take the East's fortunate ski enthusiasts up into the magnificent white world of the "high country." Here is a world and a life unique to most skiers. The indescribable wonder and beauty of the far away Rockies is unknown to the Easterner, who cannot conceive the joy of

speeding on well waxed hickories over unlimited alpine skiing territory, or the thrills of a many thousand vertical foot descent of wide open slopes.

No matter what anyone else thinks about the chances for success of the East during the Dominion Ski Championships at Banff in 1937, I frankly think you Easterners have a better chance of winning the Dominion honours than you realize.

It's skiing that will count at Banff, and not bullish daredevilry alone; ability and clean sportsmanship.

## Holt-Wilson Trophy

**I**N ORDER to make this event representative of women's skiing throughout the Dominion, the executive of the C.A.S.A. sent this lovely silver trophy, emblematic of the Women's Championship of Canada, out to the Vancouver Ski Zone for competition among the Western Canada clubs. The Vancouver Ski Club held the races for the Holt-Wilson trophy in connection with the British Columbia championships over the week-end of April 10-12. A course was laid on Hollyburn Shoulder but little shorter than the one for the men, and great credit is due the ladies for their excellent form and time over wet, heavy snow. Miss Peggy Harlin of The Vancouver Ski Club made a perfect score by winning both the downhill and slalom races in expert style, running both "wide open" and without a fall. Second in the combined was Miss Gertie Wepsala of the Tyhee Ski Club. Third, Miss Gladys Atkin of Ski Runners of the Canadian Rockies. One of Miss Harlin's friends draws this confidential picture of the champion: "Twenty-odd years young, height medium, brown hair and eyes. Smile, million-dollar. A charter member of the Vancouver Ski Club. Started skiing in 1929. Took to it as the proverbial duck does to water. Has been a consistent winner in club and open tournaments. Among her numerous titles are Club Champion, Class A, Ladies Cross-Country, Slalom and Downhill. At Mount Ranier won 'The Silver Skis' down mountain classic, the blue ribbon event of the Pacific Northwest, drawing the leading lady competitors from all western clubs. Is also keen on swimming, skating, tennis and knitting and hopes some day and somewhere to settle down and raise a family of skiers."

The Holt-Wilson competition aroused a tremendous interest all through the West and as a direct result the standard of women's skiing has been greatly improved. It is to be hoped



Miss Peggy Harlin and Tom Mobraaten  
now Mr. and Mrs. Mobraaten

that a meeting between the best of the East and West can soon be arranged. The following are the official results:—

### LADIES DOWNHILL

1st, Peggy Harlin, *Vancouver*, 39.8; 2nd, Beth Crickmay, *Vancouver*, 58.2; 3rd, G. Wepsala, *Tyee*, 59.8; 4th, Gladys Atkin, *Ski Runners*, 63.8; 5th, Gwen Gower, *Vancouver*, 68.4; 6th, M. Lewis, *Tyee*, 70.2; 7th, Doreen Ainsworth, *Vancouver*, 73.2; 8th, Jean McCurdy, *Hollyburn*, 73.8; 9th, Margie Gale, *Hollyburn*, 77.4; 10th, Evelyn Shewring, *Vancouver*, 86.2; 11th, Thelma Stevens, *Vancouver*, 89.2; 12th, Belva Graves, *Hollyburn*, 98.2; 13th, Agnes Hammond, *Ski Runners*, 1.06.8; 14th, M. Riggs, *Vancouver*, 1.21; 15th, M. Stephenson, *Vancouver*, 1.35.

### LADIES SLALOM

1st, Peggy Harlin, *Vancouver*, 100; 2nd, Gertie Wepsala, *Tyee*, 94.7; 3rd, Gladys Atkin, *Ski Runners*, 91.0; 4th, Beth Crickmay, *Vancouver*, 79.6; 5th, Gwen Gower, *Vancouver*, 78.2; 6th, J. McCurdy, *Hollyburn*, 76.7; 7th, Margie Gale, *Hollyburn*, 74.1; 8th, Marg. Riggs, *Vancouver*, 68.5; 9th, M. Stephenson, *Vancouver*, 56.4; 10th, Belva Graves, *Hollyburn*, 56.1.

### LADIES COMBINED

1st, Peggy Harlin, *Vancouver*, 200; 2nd, G. Wepsala, *Tyee*, 161.2; 3rd, Gladys Atkin, *Ski Runners*, 153.4; 4th, Beth Crickmay, *Vancouver*, 148.0; 5th, Gwen Gower, *Vancouver*, 136.4; 6th, Jean McCurdy, *Hollyburn*, 130.6; 7th, Margie Gale, *Hollyburn*, 125.5; 8th, Marg. Riggs, *Vancouver*, 101.4; 9th, Belva Graves, *Hollyburn*, 96.6; 10th, M. Stephenson, *Vancouver*, 86.0.