



Jean-Yves Gosselin

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Clearing a tree with a gelandesprung Jean-Yves Gosselin continues his run down a hill in Battlefields Park in Quebec City

THE NAME of probably the only proficient one-legged skier in the world is Jean-Yves Gosselin, 19-year old student of Quebec, whose phenomenal skill on a lone hickory is the envy of many an unhandicapped skier in this French-Canadian capital.

Bone tuberculosis from which Gosselin suffered since infancy necessitated amputation of his right leg at the age of seven. Four years later when only 11 he began to ski using his crutches instead of poles. He soon became so proficient on his one ski that he discarded crutches to take to ski poles. Today he is a keen skier and competes in inter-school competitions.

One of his most notable feats is the way he negotiates the slalom course at Mont St. Castin, at Lac Beauport, the new winter playground only eleven miles from the walled city of Quebec. He accomplishes this feat, difficult enough, in all truth, for normal skiers, by swinging his shoulders from right to left, and weaving in a smooth symphony of motion through the slalom flags.

Jean-Yves is a member of La Voirie Ski Club and at a recent Quebec City School Competition he flashed across the finish post only three minutes behind the winner in a six-mile cross-country race.

Although a French-Canadian born and bred and educated in French, Gosselin speaks English fluently and in that language modestly disclaims any great credit for overcoming his disability. "I just made up my mind that I would

learn to ski," he said, "and although I haven't done badly, I suppose, there is really nothing to boast about. For example downhill running is very easy for me, because the faster I go the easier it is to keep my balance."

Gosselin's record jump is 50 feet, he sailed over the take-off through the air to land perfectly on his one ski and glided on down the snow of the hill as unconcerned as could be.

Ironical it is that he never hurt himself while ski-ing, yet, last year he broke his left leg going through some comparatively easy gymnastics in his school. As soon as he recovered from this injury he went back to ski-ing—the only sport he enjoys.

Gosselin has competed in a number of inter-school championships. He is shown above getting off to a fast on a hill in Battlefields Park in Quebec City



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