

at Sun Valley, Idaho. The results of these events were utilized by the Olympic Ski Games Committee to select the team that represented the United States at the V Winter Games in St. Moritz, Switzerland, January 30 - February 8, 1948.

Injuries kept Dorothy Post (Gann) from entering the nationals but she was awarded a place on her previous record; she was also eligible now that ski teachers were reinstated into the amateur ranks. Selected for the Games were: Gretchen Fraser, Rebecca Fraser (Cremer), Brynhild Grasmoen, Paula Kann (Valar), Andrea Mead (Lawrence), Dorothy Post (Gann), and Ruth-Marie Stewart. Ann Winn, then a student at the University of Utah, accompanied the team as an alternate. Suzanne Harris (Rytting) was selected as an alternate but stayed at home; in later races that year, she beat most of the women who went to the Olympics. The team ranged in age from fifteen to twenty-eight; the average was twenty-two.

Dorothy "Dodie" Post (Gann) served as captain and Alice Damrosch Kiaer as chaperone. Two and one-half weeks before the Games, the Olympic Ski Games Committee named Alf Engen and Walter Prager as joint coaches; Prager served as coach for downhill and slalom and Engen for the nordic team.

Unlike the 1936 team, which wore red stockings and knickers to distinguish themselves as a team but were not furnished any sport paraphernalia, permission was given by the Uniform Committee of the United States Olympic Committee to outfit the skiers with proper clothing and equipment for racing. Manufacturers followed up this action by supplying equipment without cost. Each woman on the team received an outfit, four pair of skis, goggles, poles, and three pair of boots.

For the V Winter Games, the United States Olympic Committee gave permission to the teams to go to Europe by either plane or boat for approximately a six week period preceding the Games. Both the men and women met in New York three days before departure and sailed on December 8. The plan was to remain in Davos with short trips to enter competitive events and to go to St. Moritz on January 13 in order to practice on the Olympic courses before they were closed previous to the Games. A budget of approximately \$47,656 was to cover the advance training period and expenses.

The American women were determined to improve their ability and make a good showing in 1948. As the budget was low and did not include a coach for the ladies, they skied each day with a different member of the men's downhill team. With generous enthusiasm and energy, the men cooperated, but Alice Kiaer hired Walter Haensli to coach and assist. Haensli set up a training schedule, including time trials in slalom and downhill; in the evening, skis were waxed so that the combinations could be tested the next day. Alice Kiaer believed "the girls must feel "relaxed, carefree, admired, and protected". Walter Haensli paid attention to this aspect and tried to show them little things which would add speed. He did not have time to change them over to his style of skiing. Although only one member of the womens group had skied in Europe, they were a capable group.

In 1941, Lunn thought that Gretchen Fraser had superb technique and should do well in a world championship. However, her place on the 1948 team was considered to be a "comeback". Andrea Mead (Lawrence), at fifteen, was considered the sensation. Skiing with "eagerness", power, and racing "know-how", she was definitely capable. France, Switzerland, Italy, Sweden, and Austria were regarded, however, as the stars. The European press did not think the United States had any champions and this appeared to influence the seeding. The ladies were placed well back in the drawing of numbers.

The Downhill was set as a giant slalom, in order to reduce accidents. Two separate slaloms were also run. One was combined with the Downhill and a Special Slalom. This new plan allowed for specialization and allowed the top finishers in the Downhill to enter a slalom in which they did not have to ski with caution to protect the combined title. At this Olympics, also, parallel slalom courses for men and women were set so that the races were conducted at the same time.

The sensational story of Gretchen Fraser, of Vancouver, Washington, was well told by James Laughlin. She became the first gold medal winner for the United States, placing first in the Special Slalom. Having placed thirteenth in the Downhill, she also earned the all-round honor of placing second in the Alpine Combined. This was the second and last time the feat was to be recognized in the Games.

For her contribution to winter sports, the Ski Club of Great Britain conferred upon her the Pery Medal in 1948. In 1948, she also received awards from the Federation Francaise de Ski and the Norwegian government. The National Ski Association presented her the American Ski Trophy and she was named Woman Athlete of the Year by the National Press Club. In 1961, Gretchen's contribution was noted again by her being named the twenty-first member of the National Ski Hall of Fame.

Andrea Mead (Lawrence), Brynhild Grasmoen, and Paula Kann (Valar) turned in records that were far above average. Brynhild Grasmoen placed 12th in the Downhill; in the Special Slalom: Andrea Mead (Lawrence) finished 8th, "B" Grasmoen was 9th, and Paula Kann (Valar) placed 11th.

After the Olympics the team went to Austria and then to France for the Kandahar. The A-K, symbolic of the oldest and finest in the sport, was a prestigious classic. Since its inception in 1928, it was considered the unofficial "off-year" world championship event. Its location rotated among the Alpine countries and it was held every non-FIS year and non-Olympic year.

After the successful Olympic year of 1948, the winners and enthusiasts traveled around the American snow-belt. Often the finest skiers in America met with several of the luminaries from outside the continental United States. Travel was easier, the skiers desired to tour, and the ski areas encouraged dignitaries of the sport to attend the meets that they sponsored. Races, such as the North American Championships, the Roch Cup, and the Harriman Cup Races drew a rather large number of entries.

The first National Junior Championship races were held at Bogus Basin, Idaho, in 1948. The boys and girls represented seventeen states. None of these girls were to become FIS or Olympic skiers.

What was thought to certainly be the largest ski program on the North American continent had all efforts focused on the 1950 FIS races. This was the renewal of the event after cancellation by World War II and it was the first time that the United States had played host to the event. The alpine events were conducted in Aspen. The country was encouraged to attend the meet because such an array of ski talent would not often be assembled in the States.

The United States women's team was studded with experienced racers: Mary Berg, Janette Burr, Ann Dodge (Middleton), Rhona Wurtele Gillis, Brynhild Grasmoen, Suzy Harris Rytting, Paula Kann (Valar), Andrea Mead (Lawrence), Dorothy Post (Gann) and Katy Rudolph (Wyatt Wegeman).

The women were coached by Friedl Pfeifer, who was named trainer by the 1950 FIS Team Committee and who had coached the team from 1936-1939. The men's squad had one alpine coach and two nordic coaches. This in itself, was felt to