

In the name of all competitors I promise that we will take part in these Olympic Games, respecting and abiding by the rules which govern them in the true spirit of sportsmanship, for the glory of sport and honor of our teams.

The sound of the Star Spangled Banner was to be heard only during the opening ceremony; the flag, however, was unfurled over the victor's stand on three different occasions, when American women reached the "hallowed strata." The United States was also elated over Canada's success; Anne Heggtveit won a gold medal in the Slalom.

Results of 1960 Winter Olympic Games

No. of Competitors <u>Name</u>	Placement		
	Giant Slalom	Slalom	Downhill
	44	43	42
Beverly Anderson	36	26	-
Catherine Cox (Gorsuch)	-	9	-
Joan Hannah	-	-	21
Linda Meyers (Tikalsky)	Disq.	-	33
Penny Pitou (Zimmerman)	2	33	2
Betsy Snite (Reilly)	4	2	Disq.

The 1960 Olympics marked the expansion of an avid entourage of fans and the beginning of a decade of advancements and enthusiasm. "Years of decision" were to follow. To some, Penny Pitou (Zimmerman) and Betsy Snite (Reilly) had not won silver medals; they lost gold medals. To others, the "look" was long and hard and canards were scrupulously reviewed.

The late President John F. Kennedy spoke at the 1961 National Football Dinner and made a strong plea for physical fitness through wider sport participation. Believing that the nation should give its full support to the Olympic development program, he made the following comment:

We will not subsidize our athletes as some nations do but we should, as a country, set a goal... in our own way - emphasize this most important part of life - the opportunity to exercise, to participate in physical activity, and generally to produce a standard of excellence for our country which will enable our athletes to win the Olympics. But more important than that, which will give us a nation of vigorous men and women.

The National Ski Association in 1959 had abolished the professional "open class" designation. As an amendment to the By-Laws could not be made at that time, in 1960 at the Annual Convention of the National Ski Association the decision was reaffirmed. "Open class" competition was abrogated in favor of requiring all competitors to comply with Olympic and International Ski Federation regulations. Only those who raced without capitalizing upon their ski fame were eligible.

It was also during 1960 that the National Women's Committee was dissolved. In 1961, one Alpine Competitions Committee was named; this aided the coordination of the program, by expediting lines of communication.

Since in non-Olympic and non-FIS years there was not, as such, a selected United States team, "the racing campaign had gone into a post-Olympic slump". Lack of funds was as usual a problem considered in biennial years by the public. Plans were to send a skeleton team of four on each squad to the 1962 FIS World

Games at Chamonix, France for the Alpine events and Zakopane, Poland for the Nordic events. When first scheduled, these races were not to determine the World Championships, but during the meet it was decided, although subject to ratification by a future FIS Congress, that the races would be classified as the World Championships. Only \$15,000 of a \$55,000 budget had been collected near the start of the 1961-1962 season; if sufficient funds could not be raised, the team would be limited to possibly one member on each of the men's and women's Alpine squad, one jumper, and one cross-country man. The circumstances created doubts in the minds of the young competitors who sought support.

As usual, the 1961 tryout races were held in March and they stood for the standard by which the teams were to be picked. Selections for the teams were not announced until May. Representing and reflecting skiing for women in the United States were Barbara Ferries (Arroyo), 17 years old; Joan Hannah, 21; Linda Meyers (Tikalsky), 24; Jean Saubert, 19; and Nancy Sise (Auseklis), age 20, as alternate.

Robert "Bob" Beattie was appointed to coach both the women's and men's Alpine squads. Barbara was a senior in high school; she transferred from Aspen to Boulder to continue her education while training. Joan took leave from Mills College, Jean from Oregon State University, and Nancy trained at Middlebury College. Coach Beattie wanted to build from the college structure of ski teams and he felt the teams should be skiers and students.

The Americans had a good preparation for the big races and especially for the FIS at Chamonix, February 11-18, 1962. Bob Beattie set his goals around the theme of "togetherness". October 1 was the official date for the start of training; this was the earliest that a squad had ever started to work. The opportunity looked good to the squad and by mid-September many had gathered at Boulder, designated the training site. Six of the squad needed lodging and with Beattie's help, Boulder residents provided this at no charge.

A cohesive group departed for Europe November 26 where the men and women trained at Val d'Isere, France for three weeks before competing in European races. What had started out to be a most unsuccessful period because of lack of funds turned out to be the most extensive program to date. In the pre-FIS races at Courchevel, Linda Meyers (Tikalsky) and Joan Hannah placed one-two in the Giant Slalom. Linda was third in the Slalom at Grindelwald, Switzerland. Disregarding the titles, their ability and the American ideal they represented more than justified the expenses allocated to the select few.

At Chamonix, the site of the I Winter Olympic Games in 1924, the ladies' Giant Slalom was the highlight. When the results were tabulated, not only had Joan Hannah come in third, but the American women placed three within the first six. Since the seeding lists would not have indicated that this could happen, it was an encouraging sign. The slalom piste was the steepest that the women had run all season; in addition, one foot of new powder covered the hard, icy base which the men had used the previous day. Linda did the best. Her seventh spot was good enough for a fifth combined. The downhill, postponed by snow, a change of course, and the FIS non-stop practice rule, finally got underway. Barbara Ferries (Arroyo) made a respectable run and placed third overall; only her slalom run dropped her to fifth in the combined standings. Jim Huega also took fifth combined for the American men's team.