

be important to the growth of competitive skiing. Marion McKean Wigglesworth was named Ladies' Team Manager; Clarita Heath Reiter (Bright) became the manager. The Oregon Journal of Portland declared in a February 9, 1950 edition that "Outside Chance Given U. S. Team in Ski Meet."

One of the advantages of this race was that six women, from each team, could enter each race. Giant Slalom was added to the 1950 competition; the three-event competition gave the racers more opportunity to participate.

In the Giant Slalom, Katy Rodolph (Wyatt Wegeman) was eighth; Andrea Mead (Lawrence) ninth; and, Suzy Harris Rytting in fourteenth position. In the Slalom, Andrea Mead (Lawrence) placed sixth; and, in the Downhill, Katy finished in fifth place, 2.3 seconds behind the winner. Janette Burr (Bray) was seventh.

Noticeably missing, however, was a champion and, to many, this was a disappointment. A Spokane, Washington Chronicle, February 14, 1950 headline, "Austrian Women Dominate Field in Ski Tourney" and the Washington, District of Columbia Post February 18, 1950 banner of "Austrian Mother Wins Ski Title" told the story.

The Austrian women took three out of the first four places in each event. Coaching by Anton Seelos and Pepi Gabl, practice, and their mental attitude about racing was felt to be the formula of their success.

This led people like James Laughlin, who had been to the previous Olympic Games and to the FIS races as the official representative of the American Ski Annual, to once again urge European training for specific members of the team, "hand-picked" for the special coaching. Katy Rodolph (Wyatt Wegeman), Janette Burr (Bray), and Andrea Mead (Lawrence) were recommended. They had the technique and temperment but they needed coaching and they needed to race every weekend against the European women. It was not foreseen that the United States would be able to organize a team which would have depth in personnel and racing experience.

At this time, questions were aired that would make the situation complex and perplexing for a long time. Did the United States wish to compete to this high degree of intensity? Should the young skier of international calibre dedicate his or her full-time efforts to sport and the hopes of winning a gold medal? To what intent should the racer direct his aspirations:

The G. H. Bass and Company, a boot manufacturer of Walton, Maine, yearly donated the American Ski Trophy. The award was made to the person who had made the greatest contribution to skiing during the year. In 1948, Gretchen Fraser deservedly earned the award. For 1950, the award was presented to Andrea Mead (Lawrence). At fifteen, she had been the youngest competitor to be an Olympic ski team member. She had both won and lost some important races but in 1949 she had won the National Championship at Whitefish, Montana, in downhill, slalom, and combined. The girl from Rutland, Vermont was destined to succeed.

Establishment of a peaceful world was recognized by high government officials as perhaps an impossible task. Early in 1950, Washington was apprehensive of a sudden armed conflict. The Communists did invade South Korea in June of 1950 and the United Nations and democracies of the world took action. Therefore, when the Congress of the International Ski Federation met in Venice, Italy in 1951, the discussion of international skiing had political overtones. The ski organizations that conduct the sport in each country did not want to curtail activities again, but the points of discussion were to be slanted. Rivalry on the ski hill could not exist oblivious to international strife. Great Britain, in 1949 had withdrawn from activity over the admission of Russia. Germany and Japan

had been members before the war but they were not readmitted until after the meeting, and an eighteen to seventeen and one abstaining vote admitted East Germany. For the Olympics, however, the International Olympic Committee made the decision that Germany would have to enter as one team.

As for women, the vote to retain the downhill race was of most concern. Since it had become a well controlled race since 1949, it was felt that the downhill resembled the giant slalom. Although now considered safe, was it necessary? The Swiss and Austrian members of the committee were willing to drop the event. Alice Wolfe Kaier, the only woman on the Downhill-Slalom Technical Committee, and representing the desired action of the National Ski Association, reported that the United States women wanted to prove that they were capable of handling downhill racing. It was also recognized that, considering the time, training, and expense put into preparation for the races, three separate events were justifiable.

On the competitive scene, 1951 was a busy year. The VI Winter Games were scheduled for Oslo, Norway, February 14-25, 1952. The Olympic downhill and slalom tryouts were in March of 1951, with twenty-five women entered. Sally Neidlinger (Hudson) won a dual victory. In the downhill, Betty Weir and Katy Rodolph (Wyatt) placed second and third. In the slalom, Suzy Harris Rytting was second, while Betty Weir and Katy Rodolph (Wyatt Wegeman) tied for third.

The slalom races for the men and women were conducted on adjacent courses, as they had been at the 1948 Olympic Winter Games. Undoubtedly, the indomitable and solicitous Alice Kiaer would be vehemently opposed to this arrangement. In her judgement, injuries to women had occurred for the following reasons:

1. Racing on the same downhill course as the men presented a temptation to hold the same line as the men.
2. Training with the men caused temptation and worry.
3. Racing on the same day as the men affected the time of race and the conditions.
4. There was a lack of experienced and responsible race officials.
5. The temptation would be to make the men's and women's course equal in degree of difficulty. An inadequately controlled race was dangerous.
6. The nervous condition of the racers was brought about by adverse criticism from newspapers, coaches, and other critical factors. On parallel courses, under the constant pressure of comparison, demands on the racers were maximized.

Alice Wolfe Kiaer considered present day competitive skiing among women as extremely healthy; she was solicitously "anxious to safeguard gains made over the early days when women strained bodies and nerves trying to compete on even ground with the men".

A week after the tryout races the famed Harriman Cup was run and was also utilized as a qualifying race.

The 1952 representatives to Oslo were announced following these two races. Alice Wolfe Kaier, who was Chairman of the Women's Sub-committee, was Chairman of the Olympic Selection Committee for the women. She announced the Ladies Downhill-Slalom Squad for the 1952 Winter Games: Jannette Burr (Bray); Andrea Mead Lawrence, Captain; Sally Neidlinger (Hudson); Imogene