

Results of 1966 FIS Championships

Name	Slalom	Downhill	Placement	
			Giant Slalom	Combined
Cathy Allen	5	-	-	-
Wendy Allen	8	23	11	8
Joan Hannah	-	13	19	-
Penny McCoy	3	-	-	-
Jean Saubert	4	11	DNF	-
Suzanne Chaffee	-	5	14	-

After Chile there was a short respite but soon the Bend Summer Training Camps were in session. Three eight day camps were held for work on the snow fields and to conduct a dry land program. Two of the camps were for the Junior men, senior male prospects, and the top competitors. The second camp, August 25 to September 1 was for the top women racers and girls who finished in the top ten of the Junior Nationals. At the time of the camps, August 31, September 1-4, the Fourth Annual United States Ski Association Coaches school sponsored by the Coaches System was conducted.

Evelyn Masbruch, 1966 Blegen Award recipient for her contribution to skiing as chairman of Ski Team Fund Raising, viewed the program in this light:

Never in skiing's history has a program been so clearly deserving of approval and support. During the past few years, we have watched the U.S. Ski Team programs become profoundly revitalized. Not only have they weathered the storm of curtailed training programs, one-way tickets, lack of coaching depth and scarcity of qualified competitors to represent us - but also, and more significantly - the USSA Officers, Directors and Delegates have come forward and initiated one of the most energetic and promising programs of any sport in this nation. Transformed from what was once a doubtful program for lack of interest, talent and support, it now becomes apparent that we see evidence of achieved greatness.

Support for the sport of skiing has mounted. January 22-29, 1966, the Women's Board of the Olympic Development Committee and the Division for Girls and Women's Sports of the American Association for Health, Physical Education, and Recreation co-sponsored a National Institute on Girl's Sports. This institute "called for the training of college and school teachers and leaders and the development of skiing and skating programs for students in colleges and schools throughout the United States".

The National Program provided the financial support for a \$350,000 budget for 1966-1967. The alpine program was allocated \$160,000; this was to be used for training camps, national team travel, competition in the United States and abroad, coaching development, competition improvement, equipment, film program, salaries and travel expenses for the coaching staff, and office expenses. Funds designated for the nordic program, cross-country and jumping, totaled \$80,000 and were to be utilized for training camps, competitions, aid to the divisions of the United States Ski Association, coaches' schools, nordic promotional films and publications, salaries, travel and administrative costs.

Commencing in 1965 and officially initiated in 1966, renewed attention and interest was given to cross-country skiing for women and added to the excitement. Ski running, or ski touring as it is now called, had been enjoyed when the sport

of skiing was in the early stages of development. In 1905, officials of the Lake Placid Club kept one small club house open all winter for those who liked the snow covered forest trails of the Adirondacks. Organized cross-country ski racing was started by a club sponsored race, February 22, 1921.

Although there are three cross-country events for women in the Olympics, the United States was one of the few nations that had not participated in cross-country at the Games. For even as far as the men were concerned, United States' cross-country skiers were distinct laggards.

C. Allison Merrill, Head Nordic Coach of the United States Ski Association reported:

Nordic skiing, unlike many athletic events in the U.S.A., does not enjoy the psychological support of large numbers of recreational advocates. In due time, ski touring should take its rightful place in the American skiing scene and from such we will derive the public interest so necessary for encouragement and participation in the cross-country competition.

Michael Brady said:

If American girls can win Olympic gold medals in track, then they can excel at cross-country skiing, if it is made attractive. Even though chic European cross-country girls dress in stylish stretch knickers and blouses, a top U.S. coach begins the clothing advice in his 1964 book with, "If you have a pair of Aunt Mabel's oldtime gym bloomers and Uncle Charlie's red knee socks, get them out and put them on." This advice will not only make men wary, but easily scares off even the least fashion-conscious of girls.

One of the 1966-1967 goals of the cross-country committee at the national level was to encourage activity in women's cross-country. "One of the principal ways (was) to encourage individual girls and to provide short loops at all cross-country races that they may compete on". During the season, the tempo of cross-country activity increased. The United States Ski Association brought three Swedish girls who were Olympic competitors to the United States on January 25, 1967. They ran clinics in various parts of the country for women's cross-country. The first clinic was held in Putney, Vermont, the 25-27th of January. They also put on clinics in Colorado; Wyoming, and in various parts of the Far West and Alaska.

Since it was hoped that the United States would field a women's cross-country team in the 1968 Olympics, flexible criteria were established in order to select a 1968 National Squad and a 1968 Olympic Team. Participation in races, distance and time criteria, and a plan for a steering committee to select a team of two to four competitors were announced. Inclusion of two girls' cross-country events, a relay and a four kilometer course, marked the 1967 Junior National Championships which were held in Duluth.

Alpine skiing for women in the United States has become an integral part of competition. Gloria Chadwick, Executive Secretary of the United States Ski Association, thinks women's cross-country skiing will be an important part of the competitive program in the coming years. In 1967-1968 the top Alpine and Nordic racers will prepare for the 1968 Winter Olympic Games.