

Happy hunting - here are gift ideas for sports

Christmas is a time for watching snow fall, for roasting marshmallows or if you're inclined to be a little more athletic, for challenging the winter of your wits in the spirit of sports.

For those trying to find a gift for the athlete the choice of possible sports gifts is limitless. But to reap the full gain that is possible, you have to know the field.

There is a wide variety of indoor sports games. They come in all sizes, from cheap and easy to play to expensive and challenging. From table tennis on a screen to air hockey on the floor, any sports fan can enjoy the simple pleasure gained from knowing that, even if a blizzard is blowing outside, he can still be in tune with sports.

Of course, there is always the perfect present for the winter professional sports fan, tickets to one of the events.

For the smallest sports fans in your house why not stock up on all types of sports equipment from baseball bats to a new basketball.

If the outdoor activities of the indoors are pining, there is no better place to turn than the

great outdoors. With all its beauty and challenges, the real sportsman will find the outdoors a new breath in a dying wind.

But to challenge the world of winter sports a wide variety of equipment and clothing is needed. If your sportsman is a back-to-nature type why not buy him some equipment not already in his locker?

Start with skis, skates and sleds and move up to even greater challenges with hiking boots, backpacks, clothing and tents.

For the really rugged, the best gift on Christmas morning will be a 90 per cent goose down sleeping bag, good for 40 degrees below.

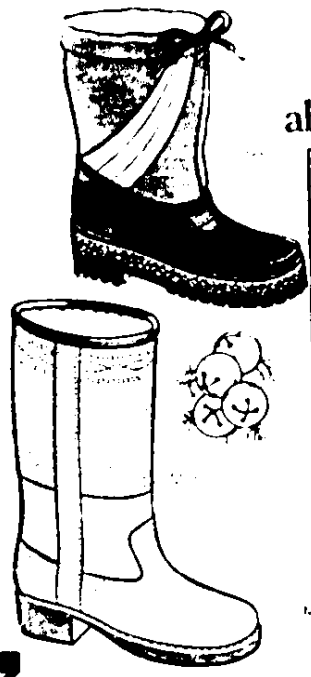
Down jackets, pants and foot-warmers which can be slipped on after a hard day's hiking will also be appreciated.

While the traditional range of gifts for the hunter and fisherman includes more guns, shells, sights, lures and rods, there's a gift that's highly unusual—a hunting bow set.

—KEN VOYLES

Santa's boots.

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