

# Ski auction will benefit U.S. teams

By MARTY BUDNER

The Michigan Ski Association (MSA) treated the United States ski team to its own version of ski lift in a benefit auction held over the weekend.

The auction, held in Troy's spacious Northland Hotel, brought together skiers from all over the metropolitan area for the purpose of helping the men's and women's U.S. teams over the past two years. The event has raised \$17,500 and \$15,000, and the organization hopes to do as well this year.

Some of the auction items included a completely equipped Alpine station wagon, three 1971-72 Buick Wildcats and two

engine (1900), plus previous prizes like western ski trips, oceanic sea cruises, numerous TVs, and, of course, skis.

Money raised from the auction benefits such skiers as Michigan-born Gary Adgate, who is a member of the U.S. "A" team that won the World Cup circuit. Adgate, who competed in the 1976 winter olympics, and Mary Seaton, who was ill and could not be present at the auction, are the only two Michiganders on the U.S. team.

Remaining members of the "A" men's squad include Greg Jones, the MGA's head coach, and Steve Andy, Mike, Geoff Bruce, Dave Currier, Ron Biedermann, Kyle Patterson and Karl Anderson. The women's team is composed of Vicki Re-

chenstein, Cindy Nelson, who was a bronze medalist in the 76 winter olympics, Abby Fisher, Jamie Karlander, Susan Patterson and Linda Cochran.

**THE 25-YEAR-OLD** Adgate started his amateur skiing as a member of the Central Division Junior National team from 1960 to 1971. While attending GHS in Livonia, he was in the fall of '71, he became part of the United States National Squad, which in essence, is two ranks below the "A" team status.

In 1973 Adgate was selected to represent the United States in the Garmisch series, which is a premier series of races on the North American continent. He won the series, thereby earning membership to the World Cup team in 1974.

Up to this point, winning the Garmisch series certainly has to be the highlight of my career," said Adgate, who spends most of his time practicing the slalom and giant slalom rather than the more exciting downhill. Just coming out of the Hudson Mountain (New York) and Littleton (Colorado) were also his goals.

Today, Adgate is the third fastest skier in the world in the U.S. and the fastest in the world in the slalom and giant slalom. He is ranked among the top 15 slalom skiers and is one of the top 10

in giant slalom.

If he attains position among the top 15 giant slalom specialists, Adgate will become the only American to be ranked that high in two separate events.

My goal, which I think is realistic, is to win a World Cup race this season," said Adgate, who was raised on his father's Beaver Mountain ski resort. "I will definitely race in the World Cup in 1978, but I don't know about the two events yet."

I have to give the slalom and giant slalom equal attention because it's hard to excel at all three events. I think speed is one of two events I can do more than

the other two. The best way I can train is to do all three and get myself up at the six o'clock, explained Adgate, who has been skiing since the tender age of three. "There are more people participating in the sport now and I think our teams are in the best position to compete."

However, with all the help given by organizations like the MSA, the United States is still far from a team participating with the best teams in the world.

**THE AUCTION, FORMALLY** entitled Ski-Prix, was held from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and was a success. It took more than

60 people to organize this particular affair.

The main thing about putting on this type of event is that everyone has something in common—we all love skiing," said Gary Adgate, past president of the MSA.

There were only three of these groups in the country four years ago, but now there are at least 30.

According to Mrs. Galt, it takes approximately \$10,000 to support one U.S. team member each season. The money raised helps to train and coach the skiers.

Meredith, last year's president of the Michigan Ski Association, and the chairpersons for this year's Ski-Prix were Mr. and Mrs. Donald Kahan of Southfield.

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