

## skiing

### Barry ZeVan

## Winter's still around on Quebec's slopes

Southeast Michigan skiers wandering around "all dressed up with no place to go" can stop muttering about Mother Nature's caprice this ski season.

There are places to go right now, this very minute, where skiing conditions suddenly have become so superb that they emulate January's ideal conditions.

One of those places offering Rock Mountain-like skiing at a fraction of the travel expense — along with at least 18 percent more spending power with U.S. dollars — is Quebec.

That province's Laurentian Mountains, North America's oldest hills, currently are experiencing a return to winter, with a vengeance.

Early spring snows, combined with cold nighttime temperatures and new snowmaking capabilities of gargantuan proportions, have transformed last month's rain-soaked slopes at Mont Tremblant, eastern Canada's highest ski mountain, into a virtual spring skiing paradise this past week.

With truly enough snow to satisfy any slope-happy skier until May, Tremblant's owners are planning to throw in this season's ski towel about April 15, give or take a day, depending upon the weather and numbers of skiers still itching to tackle some skiing bonus days.

BESIDES THIS year's surprise skiing bonus, other Laurentian bonuses abound.

Enumerating each would take a great deal of time. A great deal of time is what the residents of those fabled mountains seem to have, along with the natural ability to make that infectious impact on their skiing visitors.

The atmosphere is gracious and cheerful all the way from Ste. Jerome to Mont Tremblant. Anyone contemplating an eventual ski journey to the French Alps will find impeccable priming for that European trek from the Laurentians and their inhabitants.

Attempts, even feeble ones, at speaking French are appreciated but not mandatory, since the Quebec natives are possibly the most bilingual of any group of people, and are able and willing to assist U.S. residents having trouble "parlez-ing" their thoughts into understandable French sentences.

With 2,300 vertical feet of ski mountain and 35 miles of recently widened runs, Mt. Tremblant is virtually as challenging as any of the Rockies or New England's major ski mountains. Its 3,001-foot peak places it among the five tallest ski mountains in eastern North America.

THE GROUND for Tremblant's lodge was broken in 1936, purchased and developed by Philadelphia multimillionaire Joseph P. Ryan at the suggestion of his skiing friend (and internationally respected commentator) Lowell Thomas. The hill, which has become one of this continent's more legendary perpendicular playgrounds, opened to skiers in 1938.

What Sun Valley, Idaho, was to the west, Mont Tremblant was to the east. Mini-jet-setters (there were no jets in those days) included such luminaries as Sonja Heine, Franchot Tone and Frederic March.

The late actor March was instructed by Tremblant's current public relations advisor, Charlie Duncan, a member of the mountain's staff since it opened. Dig his fascinating historical perspective of what the mountain has witnessed since its opening is worth hearing.

A conglomerate of four lodges comprise the Mont Tremblant Resort Hotel Association, each attuned to the Tremblant magnet.

One of these, the Villa Bellevue, used to operate its own ski hill, but abandoned that enterprise in favor of transporting skiers and its own instructors to the "trembling mountain."

ONE OF ITS instructors is Luc Dubois, a senior member and director and director of the Canadian Ski Instructors Alliance. He was a past president of Canadian Ski Coaches Federation, and in 1979 represented his country at Japan's Interski XI.

Canadian "Ski Weeks" in the Laurentians have become internationally respected.

Toll-free information regarding Tremblant and the Laurentians may be obtained by calling 1-800-343-6768.

# Palmer's coming to town

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"He finished second in the Carling World Championship at Oakland Hills in 1964, a PGA tour event, and gained so much respect for the 16th hole that he entered it in a TV show that involved what he considered the best 16 holes he'd ever played."

"He also has a major business interest in Detroit. For the better part of the last decade, he's had a contractual agreement with Cadillac, and he has a lot of friends from there. For these reasons alone, I'm sure he wanted to come."

There are others, though.

"PALMER BELIEVES there's a place for senior competition," said Giffin, "because it provides a playing arena for the famous players of the immediate past."

"He and his contemporaries still play well enough that the public wants to see them. These guys are big names from the past, and unlike other athletes, golfers are still quite competent in their 50s."

Palmer, who says "the mystery still remains, but I haven't stopped thinking that I can win," has seen positive thinking work.

Last year, he realized his first wins of any kind since '75. The 5-foot-11, 178-pound Pennsylvania native captured both the Canadian PGA title (not a seniors' event) in Edmonton, Alberta, and the PGA Seniors' Tournament at Turnberry Isle in North Miami.

He finished second to Gene Littler in the World Seniors' Invitational in Charlotte, N.C. and took third with teammate Dow Finsterwald in The Legends of Golf, a senior event played in Austin, Tex.

PALMER WAS PLEASED when the USGA lowered the qualifying age to 50 from 55 (for this year's tour), Giffin said. "It made quality players like Miller Barber, Gene Littler, Billy Casper and Ken Venturi eligible to play in this tournament."

"Past senior tournaments haven't been true tests for one reason or another. This year, for the first time, senior golf will have a real test," added Giffin.

"That's for four reasons. One, it's being played in a major city. Two, Oakland Hills is an exceptional championship course. Three, it's run by the USGA, so it'll be first class, and four, all the top seniors will be there."

"Michigan's an ideal spot."

## Here's tourney info

Continued from Page 1C

There was concern among those calling the shots at Oakland Hills that its membership might not take too kindly to hosting a tournament sandwiched between the '79 PGA and the '85 U.S. Open.

But members voted it in, 355-82.

For five days, it means giving up golf on home turf, not trespassing in restricted sections of the clubhouse, enduring damages to the course after the excitement ends and a lot of work.

Hundreds of volunteers are needed to work on committees ranging from the Echoes Staff to Local Government Relations. And, unlike the arrangement in past years, members are allowed no freebies.

For the '79 PGA, Oakland Hills folks received two free passes and a parking sticker. This year, unless a member chooses to work during the tournament, only \$45 member badges — and just four per family — are available.

TICKET PACKAGES for non-members range from \$8 to \$150.

Daily Tickets, Grounds Only (\$8) includes admittance to the grounds for practice rounds July 6-8 and — if bought in advance — parking and a copy of the Championship Magazine. Daily grounds tickets for the tournament are \$12 each.

Season Tickets, Grounds Only (\$50) includes one ticket per day, parking and a copy of the magazine.

Season Tickets, Clubhouse and Grounds (\$75) includes one ticket per day with clubhouse and grounds privileges, daily parking and an copy of the magazine.

Coupon Book, Grounds Only (\$110) grants the bearer 10 coupons, good any day, 10 parking coupons and 10 copies of the magazine.

Coupon Book, Clubhouse and Grounds (\$150) buys 10 coupons, 10 parking coupons, clubhouse and grounds privileges and 10 copies of the magazine.

A \$4,000 First Tee Club Membership buys a four-

page ad in the magazine and 60 clubhouse and grounds coupons, complete with first-class trimmings.

For more information on ticket packages, call 644-2500 or write the U.S. Senior Open Championship, Oakland Hills, 3951 W. Maple, Box 111, Birmingham 48012.

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## Klein paces Adams girls

Dianne Klein won three individual events and ran on a winning relay last Thursday to pace Rochester Adams' 79-44 victory in non-league girls' track.

Klein won the 100-meter hurdles (16.01), the 100-meter dash (12.9) and the long jump (15-feet-7). She also anchored the 440 relay (with Jenny Heim, Michele Thomas and Jana Hale), which posted a winning time of 55.1.

Heim won two field events, the shot put (31-5) and the discus (31-5). Adams' 800 relay (Thomas, Joanne Kissling, Kendra Reed and Karen Johns) won with a time of 1:55.0. Kelly Andrews of Adams won the 440 dash (64.45) and ran on the 1600 relay (with Johns, Jean Randolph and Kissling), which won in 4:30.0.

Seaborn's Karyn Fluecan won the high jump (5-2) and the 200 low hurdles (34.4). Teammate Joanne Simonetti won the 200 dash with a time of 2:35.7.

## REGISTRATION NOTICE

FOR

## SPECIAL ELECTION

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 1981

To the Qualified Electors of the City of Farmington Hills (Precinct No. 1-24)

COUNTY OF OAKLAND, STATE OF MICHIGAN

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I WILL BE AT MY OFFICE  
MONDAY, APRIL 20, 1981 — Last Day

From 8 o'clock a.m. until 8 o'clock p.m.

The 30th day preceding said Election

And on Saturday, April 11, 1981 - 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

As provided by Section 498, Act No. 116, Public Acts of 1954 As Amended.

For the purpose of REVIEWING the REGISTRATION and REGISTERING such of the qualified electors in said TOWNSHIP, CITY or VILLAGE as SHALL PROPERLY apply therefor.

The name of no person but an ACTUAL RESIDENT of the precinct at the time of registration, and entitled under the Constitution, if remaining such resident, to vote at the next election, shall be entered in the registration book.

FLOYD A. CAIRNS, City Clerk

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