

John Clendenin: new star in new sport

The name John Clendenin is not quite household material.

Not yet, that is. John Clendenin, however, is a world champion in every sense of the word that Muhammad Ali is, with the excep-

tion that Clendenin's sport makes boxing seem as harmless as a game of touch football in the street.

Clendenin is twice world freestyle skiing champion.

PART of freestyle skiing consists of an individual, not necessarily of sound mind, jumping off a hill, twisting and turning his body in pirouettes and somersaults in the air and, hopefully, landing back on his skis.

"While freestyle skiing is derived from what is commonly called 'hot dogging' there are important differences," said Clendenin at a recent visit to Birmingham.

"Freestyle skiing is very technical. If you touch your hand down in the snow, you're out," he said.

Clendenin, at the age of 26, won the first world championship in freestyle skiing in 1973 at Colorado's Sun Valley. He successfully defended his title this year at California's Heavenly Valley where he talked about his up and coming sport at a clinic he gave at Birmingham.

Clendenin later took the Western National title.

Clendenin talked about his up and coming sport at a clinic he gave at Birmingham.

the Bavarian Village Ski Shop in Birmingham Monday.

"FREESTYLE SKIING is divided into three events: the 'hot dogging' aeri-

als and mogul skiing," he said.

He explained that ballet was performed on a shallow hill which is made as smooth as possible.

In films which he presented at the shop, the ballet event, which is set to music, was somewhat similar to classical figure skating although the length of the skis and the swirling of the snow gave the skiing version its own, haunting beauty.

"Ballet is still in its creative stages. It has come into its own in the last year and is becoming more and more refined," he said.

"The music and routine is strictly up to the individual competitor. Music ranges from rock to classical," he added.

CLENDENIN STATED that the ballet is his strongest point in a sport which requires each competitor to excel in all three events.

"The aeri-als are becoming very technical. It is the most standard part of freestyle skiing in that most moves have been explored to their limits. If someone comes up with a new ballet move, it's no big thing. But if someone comes up with a new aerial move—that's new," he said.

Clendenin explained that the aeri-als were similar to three meter diving. The films of the event were strikingly beautiful. In essence, it is an event which is great to watch but frightening to consider competing in.

"Actually," Clendenin claimed, "there's not much danger involved. Falling on a steep hill is less dangerous than falling into water."

"You can be killed dropping 60 feet into water but if you drop onto a steep hill from 60 feet, you just roll along until you stop," he said.

MOGUL SKIING involves the skier

moving down a course of ridges and bumps, or moguls, meant for turning.

It is in this event that freestyle most closely resembles the "hot dogging" seen on the local ski hill.

"There's an important distinction, though," Clendenin explained.

"If you're hot dogging and you fall down, you just get back up. My hand hit the snow in a tournament last year and it cost me \$2,000," he said.

Clendenin said that there is no time to perform any real ballet moves on the mogul course, where the skiers move in excess of 30 miles per hour, and that there are no inverted aeri-als.

Because of the necessity of maintaining body control at all times in freestyle skiing, Clendenin worked last summer on "body kinesics," the study of the body in motion.

"I WORKED on a trampoline and with three gymnasts. I'm just beginning to understand what is going on in aeri-als," he said.

Clendenin sees his sport picking up in popularity, especially among the young, but he said that television was integral to its eventual success.

"And television interest has quadrupled in the last two years," he said.

"Television is integral because only television can develop a mass-based interest in the sport," he said.

Clendenin said that he hoped that freestyle skiing would develop into an Olympic sport eventually.

"I can really see that happening by 1980," he said. "It has the ingredients of three-meter diving, tumbling and figure skating which are all Olympic sports, so I don't see why it shouldn't be," he said.

CLENDENIN SAID that he had received only one serious injury in freestyle skiing, a back injury involving a transverse process of two vertebrae in 1972.

He said that although the injury laid him up for quite a period of time, it

did not affect his desire to compete in his sport.

"I was determined not to let it bother me. I wouldn't allow it," he said.

But the minor injuries are quite a bit more common.

"I'm standing on two sprained ankles right now," he said.

Freestyle skiing is striking in its setting and moving in its grace and agility. With an increasing public awareness, John Clendenin and his sport might yet make it into the vocabulary of the everyday American.

If Clendenin's back and ankles hold up at the same rate the television networks' interest in the new sport grows, it's a sure thing.

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1.) telephone crisis intervention; 2.) short and long term counseling; 3.) medical diagnosis and referral; 4.) drug related consultation and education. These services will be provided under licensing from the State of Michigan Department of Public Health, Office of Substance Abuse Services.

JOSEPH DAMIANI, MSW
Director
Farmington Area Advisory Council, Inc.

Publish: Nov. 18, 1974

City of Farmington Hills Oakland County, Michigan

Notice of Adoption of Ordinance No. C-70

The City Council of the City of Farmington Hills adopted Ordinance C-70, Building Ordinance, for the City at a regular meeting held October 28, 1974 and ordered publication of the following digest or summary of the ordinance in accordance with Sec. 4.04 of the City Charter. Printed copies of the full text of the Ordinance are available for inspection and distribution to the public at the office of the City Clerk.

An Ordinance to regulate the design, construction, alteration, installation, maintenance, use, inspection and re-inspection, demolition and removal of all buildings and structures, their electrical wiring and apparatus, plumbing and sanitary facilities, heating and air conditioning apparatus and all other component parts thereof.

The City of Farmington Hills ordains:

- Section 1. Adoption of Codes.
- Section 2. Fire Districts.
- Section 3. Fees.
- Section 4. Penalties.
- Section 5. Building Permit Performance Bond.
- Section 6. Severability.
- Section 7. Repealer.
- Section 8. Effective Date: 11-18-74
- Section 9. Adoption: Oct. 28, 1974

FLOYD A. CAIRNS
City Clerk

Publish: Nov. 18, 1974

Announcing the opening of the Physical Rehabilitation & Pain Clinic

treating and rehabilitating patients with painful conditions and physical handicaps. Services provided include Physiotherapy, Acupuncture Therapy (with and without needles), Manual Therapy, Electromyography, and Auriculotherapy to patients who are referred by licensed doctors of medicine and Osteopathy. Patients may also come directly, in which case they will be examined by a licensed M.D. at the clinic before they receive any treatment.

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by
Robert H.
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Carrying on

Dan Henry, a 1973 graduate of Southfield High School, is carrying on his cross country running feats at Oakland Community College. The college team competes in the Eastern Collegiate Conference of the Michigan Community Junior College League. Henry had an excellent high school career at Southfield under coach Chuck Balog. In cross country, he was all state in his senior year.

Land use studied

WEST BLOOMFIELD—The West Bloomfield-Farmington Area League of Women Voters will begin a two-month study of the role of the federal government in land use Nov. 29.

The meeting will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the Farmington Hills Public Library, 3277 West Twelve Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Among the issues to be discussed are how to resolve the conflict between national land use goals and individual property rights and how land use power should be distributed among federal agencies.

A representative from the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) is the kick-off speaker for the study session.

For further information contact membership chairman Mary Lazaraton at 631-9077.

Babysitting services during the meeting will be available at the Prince of Peace Church, New Market Road, Farmington Hills.

Wood Creek PTA plans dinner

The Parent-Teacher Organization of Wood Creek Elementary School will sponsor a holiday dinner followed by a magic show Thursday, Nov. 21 at 28400 Harwich Drive, Farmington Hills.

Dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the magic show will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Admission will be charged.

In orchestra

Carolann Francis, 25823 Springbrook, Farmington, is a member of the Symphony Orchestra at Central Michigan University where she is a sophomore. She plays the cello.

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