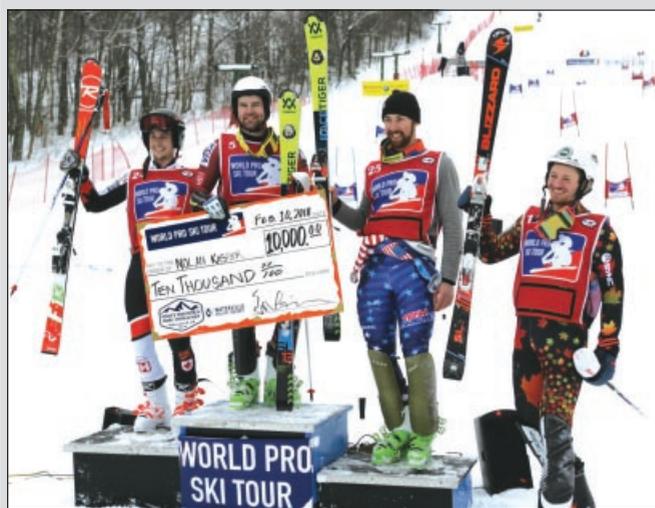


Starting Gate

Volume XVIII No.2

MARCH 2018



Four Tops: American racers snagged three out of the four top spots at Waterville Valley Resort. Nolan Kasper checks in as winner while fellow Americans Michael Ankeny and Robbie Kelley (right) claimed third and fourth respectively. Canadian Morgan Megarry (left) duelled with Kasper and took second place. Lisa Mutz-Nelson photo.

North Americans claim podium at Waterville Valley

Nolan Kasper of the US Ski Team and 2018 US Olympic Team overcame a tough day of qualifying and a loss in run 1 of the semifinals to win the White Mountain Dual Challenge at Waterville Valley over runner-up Morgan Megarry of the Canadian Ski Team. On Friday, Kasper qualified as the 15th seed which gave him a difficult route to the finals.

The most tense moment came in the first run of the semifinals when 3rd ranked American slalom skier Robby Kelley defeated Kasper by .36 seconds. With a .62 second victory in run 2, three time Olympian Kasper was able to overcome the deficit and advance to take on Megarry in the final.

"It was great to see such a big crowd of enthusiastic supporters today at Waterville Valley for this event. Like all the racers here today, I am thrilled to see that the World Pro Ski Tour has come back after being dormant for so long," said Kasper.

The legendary Tommy's World Cup run at Waterville Valley proved to be a challenging venue for the top racers from the U.S., Canada, Finland, Sweden, and France. The race track was icy and slick despite a foot of new snow falling on Wednesday before the event and 4-6 inches early morning Saturday. Two 5-foot jumps and other small terrain caused many top athletes to fall or miss gates.

"It was fantastic to see the Waterville stop of the WPST take place on a much more challenging hill

Please see **WATERVILLE VALLEY** on page 3



This event will air
April 8 @ 2:30pm ET

See p. 7 for airtimes
of other events



Top pros to duel in Rocky Mountain Pro Ski Classic at Snowmass, CO



Dueling for dollars: American Nolan Kasper (r.) edged out Canadian Morgan Megarry (l.) for top honors at the White Mountain Dual Challenge.

The World Pro Ski Tour is coming to Snowmass for the Rocky Mountain Pro Ski Classic, the second event of the 2018 World Pro Ski Tour season. 2018 US Olympian Nolan Kasper of Warren, VT will headline the field to defend his victory in the White Mountain Dual Challenge at Waterville Valley, NH February 10th. He will face a tough challenge from 2017 US and Canadian Slalom Champion AJ Ginnis, who finished 2nd in the 2017 Pro Ski Challenge at Sunday River, ME. Also not to be underestimated is Michael Ankeny of Wayzata, MN who has finished third in the last two World Pro Ski Tour races.

"Dual professional ski racing has a long history in the Aspen Valley, dating back to Bob Beattie in the 1960's. The wild spirit of the area is a perfect match with the World Pro Ski Tour, which features the most exciting format and most fun parties in alpine ski racing," said Ed Rogers, President of the World Pro Ski Tour. "World-class racers like Kasper, Ginnis

and Ankeny will put on an exceptional show for all the fans, at no charge!"

World Pro Ski Tour competition features an open registration for all men and women over 18 (go to worldproskitour.com/registration) for qualification on Friday. The top 32 athletes will advance to the finals on Satur-

"We are excited to welcome the World Pro Ski Tour to Snowmass, continuing the celebration of Snowmass's 50th anniversary season."

John Rigney
Senior VP Aspen Skiing Co.

day, where they will go head to head twice (once on each course) to determine who advances. The winner will need endurance to prevail through the ten runs required to win.

"We are excited to welcome the World Pro Ski Tour to Snowmass, continuing the celebration of Snowmass's 50th anniversary season," says John Rigney, Senior Vice President, Aspen Skiing Company. "This event offers a fun format for spectators and athletes alike."

The racing at Snowmass will take place Friday at 12PM (qualification) and Saturday at 11AM on the Blue Grouse Trail above the Spider Sabich Cabin. To add to the fun, World Pro Ski Tour Official Partners Tito's Handmade Vodka will be serving outside the Sabich and Greenhead Lobster will be providing lobster bisque samples.

Look through the rest of the *Starting Gate* to learn about the racers in the Rocky Mountain Pro Ski Classic, some pro tips from Pam Fletcher, and more! We hope to see you on the slopes this weekend.



World Pro Ski Tour

5 Old Sloop Lane
Bath, Maine 04530
(207) 446-1492
email: cmarshall@worldproskitour.com

- Edwin A. Rogers President
- Kevin Clarke Vice President
- Craig Marshall Executive Director
- Marty Ehrlich Executive Producer Pro Ski TV
- Christopher Lincoln Producer/Director Pro Ski TV
- John Jacobs Director
- Justin Burley Director
- Bill Stratton Director
- Bill Despo Secretary & General Counsel
- Barrett Stein Treasurer
- Lisa Mutz-Nelson WPST Admin/Photographer
- Carl Schlick Creative Director
- GP Bonenfant Graphic Artist/Sign Shop Manager

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From left: Kevin Clarke, pro racer Nolan Kasper, Barrett Stein and Craig Marshall.

Lisa Mutz-Nelson photo.



Ed Rogers

Ed is a legend in the skiing world following his twenty-two year run as the director of a regional pro tour starting in 1976 that grew to become the World Pro Ski Tour until 1998. Ed has been working to bring back the pro tour ever since and is now the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the WPST. He resides in Bath, ME where he owns and operates JR Maxwell's, a restaurant downtown. He is very active in the local community, working to drive tourism and increase economic activity while still finding time to sail.

Kevin Clarke

A native of Fryeburg, Maine, Kevin works for Martignetti Companies, one of New England's leading liquor distributors. He was a pro racer during the 1980s and went on to take a position as an announcer and sponsorship activation specialist on Ed Rogers' U.S. Pro Ski Tour in the 1990's. Kevin enjoys skiing in the winter and car racing of all types in the summer.

Craig Marshall

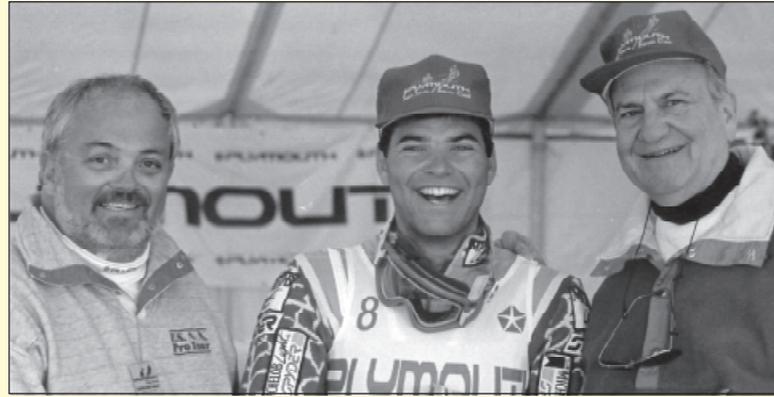
Craig grew up at Sugarloaf, Maine and ski raced while at Carrabassett Valley Academy and at the NCAA Division I level for Colby College. He moved to Portland, Maine in August of 2015 and still lives there while running the WPST. Craig still enjoys skiing in addition to playing golf and squash.

Barrett Stein

Barrett grew up ski racing at Buck Hill in Minnesota and started his coaching career there. He spent fifteen years in Telluride and Aspen as a program director and race coordinator. He is passionate about the WPST dual format and is excited to help bring this event, which is geared to spectators, back into ski racing. Besides skiing Barrett loves to golf and ride anything with two wheels.

Ed Rogers (l.) with pro Christian Orlainsky and Chrysler's Lee Iacocca.

Lisa Mutz-Nelson photo.



Marty Ehrlich (l.) and Chris Lincoln work the TV truck on site.

Lisa Mutz-Nelson photo.

Marty Ehrlich

As Executive Producer for pro ski TV, Marty has over 25 years experience of production and program creation. He has produced, represented and created hundreds of world class properties and has a combination of over 30 Emmy awards and nominations.

Lisa Mutz-Nelson

Professional photographer Lisa Mutz-Nelson was behind the cameras as the World Pro Ski Tour official photographer back when Kodachrome color slides were the medium of choice. "Shooting digital is a whole different world," says the Avon, Colorado resident, "and I look forward to working with the tour again."



Christopher Lincoln

As a producer and director, Christopher has earned a reputation for delivering both exciting and informative programming in a variety of sports and entertainment. Over the past thirty-three years, he has been a part of ten Olympic games having worked for the host broadcaster and with three US rights holders (CBS, NBC, ABC). Since 2007, Flying Fish Productions has supported Olympic Broadcast Services in an award-winning production at the Beijing and London games from 2007-12.

John Jacobs

John lives in Glens Falls, NY where he runs the world famous Reliable Racing Supply, a company that was started by his parents in 1969. His experience in pro tour skiing runs back to the days of Bob Beattie's tour and he stayed involved through the 1980's and 90's. John still enjoys skiing and sailing.

Bill Despo

Bill Despo is general counsel for the Tour. He has been a lawyer for over 40 years and was a partner at a national law firm who concentrated his practice on business law, corporate, securities, governmental investigations and complex business litigation. Bill is an avid skier having skied all his life and all over the world.



Carl Schlick

Maine native Carl Schlick skied Sugarloaf mountain when there were only three t-bars serving the slopes and Ed Rogers was just getting started with his infamous Red Stallion Inn. As creative director, Carl has worked with Ed for almost 40 years, 20 of those with the pro skiing tours. He enjoys playing drums in local bands.

Waterville Valley

from page 1

than most other dual races. The steeper pitch, bigger jumps, and awesome surface was the perfect stage for some world-class battles," said Morgan Megarry.

AJ Ginnis, the second place finisher from the 2017 Pro Ski Challenge at Sunday River qualified in the second position on Friday but tweaked his back and was forced to withdraw from the finals on Saturday. Ginnis will still be a favorite in the remaining events along with Michael Ankeny who finished third in both the Sunday River and Waterville Valley events.

"It was nice getting a feel for the cattle door style start gates in Waterville Valley. At the beginning of the event I was really struggling with the timing, but after some adjustments I started to feel really quick out of the gate," Ankeny said. "I'm itching to get to Snowmass for the next event and climb up further past that 3rd place step."



Lisa Miltz-Nelson

Cruising Canadian: Morgan Megarry gets focused on the Waterville Valley course on his way to a second place finish.

• Covering Pro Ski Racing Worldwide •



VOLUME XI NO. 10
FEBRUARY 1993

WINNING BIG AT WINTER PARK

Bernhard Knauss (right) took a double header at the First Interstate Bank Cup bolstering his point lead.

• COMPLETE RACE WRAP-UP ON PAGES 4-5 •

\$200,000 Aspen action to crown World Champion

Ove Nygren defends title at gigantic U.S. Pro Ski Tour Chrysler World Championships

By Kerry Metcalf
ASPEN, CO - "I am ready, I want to keep this title," said defending World Pro Ski Champion Ove Nygren, as pro skiers readied for the rich Chrysler World Pro Championships scheduled on Little Nell at Aspen, February 11 to 14.

World Champion, Nygren goes into the four-day event the co-favorite with U.S. Pro Tour leader Bernhard Knauss. "I ski better with pressure," the 24-year old Norwegian said.

The weekend at the famed Colorado ski resort is filled with a variety of events in addition to the Chrysler World Pro Ski Championships. Nancy Davis of Aspen and Los Angeles, heads a committee



Please turn to page 4

SEE THIS EVENT ON NBC TELEVISION MARCH 4 • 3-4pm ET

Celebrity Spectacular!

Chrysler Race to Erase MS unites Hollywood & Pro Show

ASPEN, CO — Celebrities from the world of Hollywood, television and sports will join major corporate, civic and social leaders and the world's best pro ski racers this Saturday for the Chrysler Aspen Pro-Celebrity Race to Erase MS at Aspen Mountain's Little Nell trail.

DEFENDER Ove Nygren needs to cut loose to retain his World Champion crown.



Dave Goffman photo.

TEAM EFFORT! Chrysler Race to Erase MS Chairperson Nancy Davis (left) joins up with her mother, Barbara Davis. Alan Berber photo.

Celebrities scheduled to join the fight to Erase MS:
Justine Bateman
Candice Cameron
Catalina Casariti
Suzy Chaffee
Jimmy Connors
Kiki Cutter
John Denver
Sharon Doherty
David Faustino
David Foster
Kenny G
Eva Gabor

MS is a neurological disease that attacks the central nervous system and may result in a loss of vision, speech impairment and paralysis. The disease strikes people between the ages of 20 and 50 and affects twice as many women as men. There is a six-fold higher incidence of MS in Colorado where one in 800 residents is afflicted. Colorado is one of the 40th parallel north which has been determined to be the geographic high-risk zone for MS.

The weekend will also include a Western Patron Party at the Little Nell Hotel with a cocktail for the corporate teams on Friday night and the Pro-Celebrity ski races and snow volleyball tournaments on Saturday. Sunday will feature a tennis exhibition with Jimmy Connors and friends at The Aspen Club and a Valentine's dessert and dancing extravaganza at Tatum. All proceeds will go directly to assist programs of care, education and research of MS.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Austrians Karl Thaler, Hans Hofer, Mathias Berthold and Bernhard Knauss were holding down the top spots in the standings with Norwegians Ove Nygren (on front page at left) and Torjus Berge in the thick of the mix.

On the Women's Pro Ski Tour, the top spots belonged to Sweden's Catharina Glasser-Bjerner Austrian Roswitha Raudaschl. Americans Lynda McGehee-Walsh, Carter Payne and Amy Livran were in hot pursuit.

Television broadcast included ABC, NBC and an extensive schedule on ESPN.

Celebrity Spectacular!

Chrysler Race to Erase MS unites Hollywood & Pro Show

From page 1

ditional \$100,000 will be allocated to Aspen Valley Hospital.

"The Race to Erase MS is the result of a year's planning and the selfless dedication of more than one-hundred volunteers," said Davis. "It has been a pleasure working with everyone involved, especially Chrysler and the U.S. Pro Ski Tour."

In addition to the race, the weekend will also include the Race to Erase MS auction at the Ritz-Carlton Aspen emceed by George Hamilton and Jimmy Connors on Saturday evening at 7 p.m. See listing below.

"In addition to the money raised for research and treatment, another major goal of this event is to raise the public's awareness of this disease," said Davis. "Many people don't know what it is."

MS is a neurological disease that attacks the central nervous system and may result in a loss of vision, speech impairment and paralysis. The disease strikes people between the ages of 20 and 50 and affects twice as many women as men. There is a six-fold higher incidence of MS in Colorado where one in 800 residents is afflicted. Colorado is one of the 40th parallel north which has been determined to be the geographic high-risk zone for MS.

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All photos except Justine Bateman by Alan Berber.



Nicolle Sheridan



Justine Bateman



Luke Perry



Michael Bolton



George Hamilton



Jimmy Connors

CHRYSLER THE RACE TO ERASE MS

U.S. Pro Ski Tour

Nancy Davis, Chairperson

Ask Me About Multiple Sclerosis:

- MS is not hereditary nor is it contagious.
- MS can be crippling, but it is not fatal.
- MS strikes mostly young adults (20-40).
- MS strikes twice as many women as men.
- MS in Colorado is 10 times the national average.

Symptoms of MS:

- Loss of Balance
- Extreme Fatigue
- Impaired Coordination
- Confusion/Forgetfulness
- Loss of Dexterity/Weakness
- Blurred Vision
- Slurred Speech
- Numbness
- Paralysis

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Pro Ski racing has a rich history at Aspen

It was February of 1993 and Pro Ski Racing was set to crown a World Champion at Aspen in the U.S. Pro Ski Tour Chrysler World Championships. Race to Erase MS Chairperson Nancy Davis was heading up the Pro-Am fundraiser for the fight against multiple sclerosis.

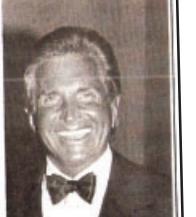
More Apen History on page 9.

The AUCTION

of all auctions

Feel adventurous? The Race to Erase MS auction at the Ritz-Carlton Aspen will be emceed by George Hamilton and Jimmy Connors on Saturday evening at 7 p.m. Among the items for bid are:

- A 1993 Chrysler Concorde.
- A one-hour private tennis lesson with Jimmy Connors.
- A weekend as the guest of Merv Griffin at his Paradise Island Resort's exclusive Ocean Club in the Bahamas.
- A gift certificate from George Marino for a girl or boy between the ages of 3 and 11 to be featured in a Guess? Kids national advertising campaign.
- Sports memorabilia from Michael Jordan, Joe Montana, Wayne Gretzky, Luc Robitaille, and Martina Navratilova.
- A 30-minute ride on the Goodyear Blimp "Eagle."
- Mick Jagger's black leather vest and a Epiphone guitar autographed by Foreigner's Mick Jones (donated by Gibson USA).
- A trip to Caesars Palace in Las Vegas with VIP ticket to its next "Big Fudge" and Bo Ruddick's boxing gloves (donated by Henry Gluck, Shelton Gordon and Melvin Simon of Caesars Palace).
- An 18-hole golf match with Sydney Poitier.
- A Cartier tank watch from Hyde Park Jewellers.
- A guided tour of and visit to the Mt. Kenya Game Ranch and the Mt. Kenya Helden Wildlife Education Center in Kenya.
- Halibutrig for a 1993 Los Angeles Clippers home game.
- A cruise on the Five Star Plus Seabourn Spirit from Venice to Athens.



CALLING THE AUCTION ACTION: George Hamilton will be joined by Jimmy Connors to emcee the bidding.

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Mardene Haskell is first woman to compete on new World Pro Ski Tour

The White Mountain Dual Challenge at Waterville Valley was a landmark occasion as Mardene Haskell became the first woman to compete in the new World Pro Ski Tour. Haskell, 23, who is originally from Holderness, NH but now resides in Boston, was a four-time NCAA All-American at Colby College. After graduating in May 2017, she entered the medical sales field but has continued to race on weekends and in her free time.

"I feel really lucky, it's just an opportunity that I'm taking advantage of," said Haskell on-site in an interview with WMUR TV. "I've never gone off the pro jumps before so there are a lot of new things happening today. It was so fun and everyone was incredibly supportive. It went really well."

Haskell qualified in the 25th position for the finals on Saturday, February 10th. She was matched up against a tough competitor- 28-year-old Joonas Rasanen of Finland, who won the slalom at the 2013 NCAA Championships and World University Games while at the University of New Mexico. Rasanen is currently ranked 74th in the world for men in slalom but Haskell gave him a run for his money.

"She's a great competitor," Rasanen remarked. "To be that successful on the women's NCAA circuit is a huge



accomplishment and as she gets more experience in the pro format she'll be even tougher to beat. It was great to see her mixing it up out here and hopefully we'll match up again!"

Haskell was not only a fan favorite but was also rooted on by her fellow competitors. While in the start of her first finals run against Rasanen, the group of racers started chanting her

name. Rasanen reflected, "I was definitely not the athlete the crowd wanted to win!"

Look for more female competitors in the World Pro Ski Tour as it continues to hold non-gendered events open to both men and women.

“

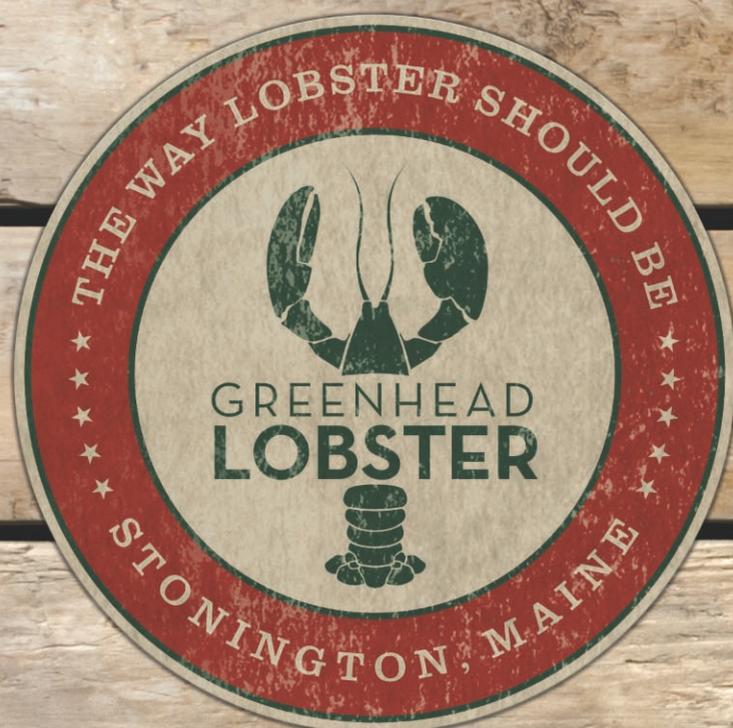
She's a great competitor.

Joonas Rasanen, Finland

”



Pumped up for the dual challenge: American Mardene Haskell made history at the Waterville Valley Resort event.



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Rocky Mountain Pro Ski Classic

Snowmass, CO | March 8-10, 2018

THURSDAY, MARCH 8

3-6pm: Racer Registration at **Base Camp**
3-6pm: Tito's Après Promo at **Basecamp**

FRIDAY, MARCH 9

12pm: **Rocky Mountain Pro Ski Classic Qualifier – on Blue Grouse trail**
3-5pm: Tito's Handmade Vodka Après Promo at **Venga Venga**
9-11pm: Tito's After Dark Party at **The Grey Lady**

SATURDAY, MARCH 10

11am: **Rocky Mountain Pro Ski Classic Finals – on Blue Grouse trail**
3pm: Awards Ceremony
3:30-5:30pm: Tito's Handmade Vodka Après Promo at **Base Camp**
8-10pm: Tito's World Pro Ski Tour Closing Party at **The Red Onion**

VIP REGISTRATION
Official VIP registration area is the lobby of the Snowmass Mountain Chalet
Fri+Sat am



This event will air
April 8 @ 2:30pm ET
See p. 7 for airtimes
of other events



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See it on television:

▶ **WHITE MOUNTAIN DUAL CHALLENGE** – Apr. 1 @ 1:00pm ET
Waterville Valley Resort • Feb. 8-10

▶ **SNOWMASS PRO SKI CLASSIC** ————— Apr. 8 @ 2:30pm ET
Snowmass • March 8-10

▶ **VISIT MAINE PRO SKI CHAMPIONSHIP** – Apr. 15 @ 12:30pm ET
Sunday River • March 29-31



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Lisa Muiz-Nelson

understanding

PROSKIING'S **DUAL** FORMAT

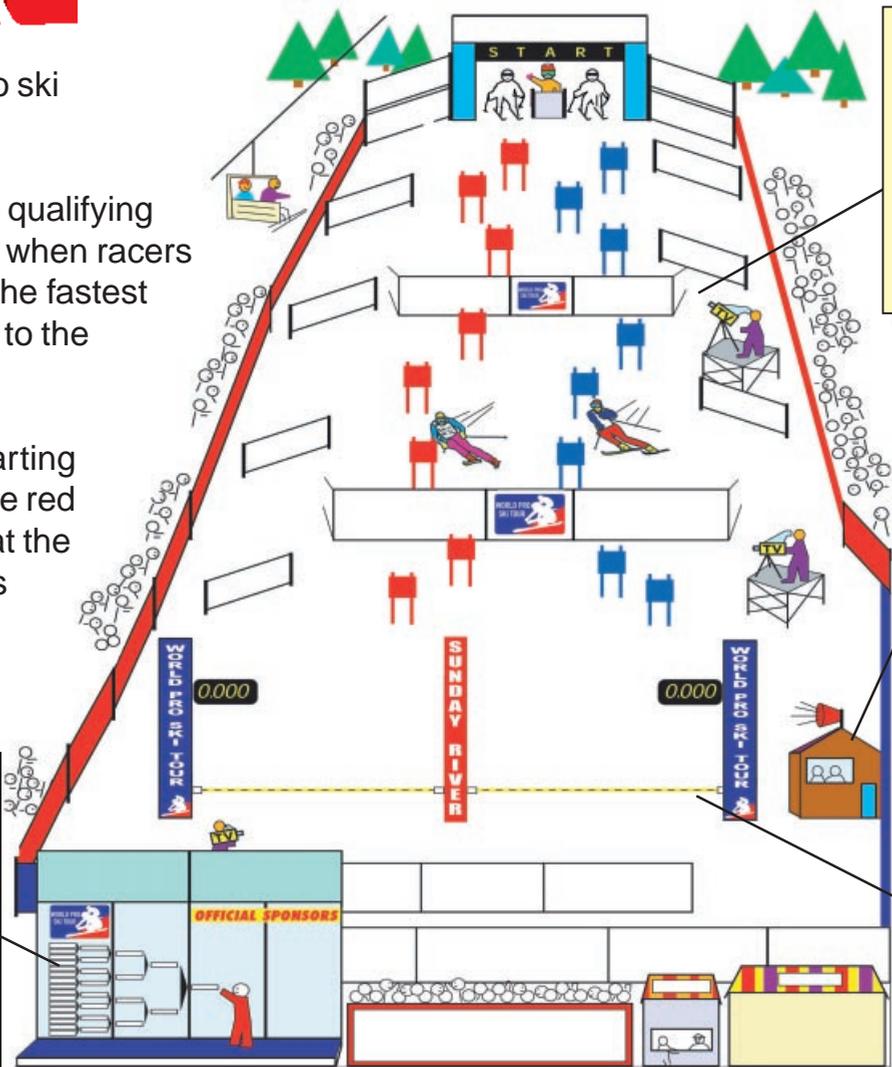
Watching the dual format of pro ski racing is easy and exciting.

The competition starts with the qualifying runs, the only part of the event when racers are timed from start to finish. The fastest 32 pros qualify and then it's on to the head-to-head competition.

Two racers blast out of dual starting gates onto parallel courses, one red and one blue. All the timing is at the finish line. The action continues down the ladder until only one pro is left – the champion!

SCOREBOARD

Starting with 32 qualifiers, the dual format builds excitement as the pro field narrows through rounds of 32, 16, 8 and the semi-finals. The hottest racing is often at the end when the best racers battle to be the champion. Updated continuously to show each racer's progress, the scoreboard is the site of the post-race awards ceremonies.



AIRTIME
Built into the race course, bumps launch the pros skyward – an excellent spot for spectators.

FREE admission on the RACE HILL
Walk to the race course from the base lodge or stop by on your skis. These are some of the world's best ski racers—the action is intense and viewing them close up gives a new appreciation of their excellence.

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TIMING IS EVERYTHING
Races are won by thousandths of a second. The state-of-the-art timing system uses a light beam on each course. The first racer through the finish starts the clock and the second stops it. The margin of victory, called the *time differential*, appears on electronic scoreboards in the finish area. The pair of racers then return to the start and race again, switching courses to equalize any differences between the red and the blue courses. The pro with the greater time differential after two runs advances and meets a new opponent.

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TOP RACERS

A CLOSER LOOK AT THE WORLD'S BEST COMPETING ON THE WORLD PRO SKI TOUR



Lisa Murtz-Nelson

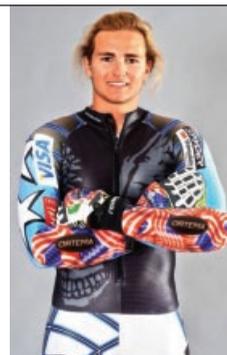
Nolan Kasper is a 28-year-old member of the US Ski Team and the 2018 US Olympic Team who lives in Warren, VT. Nolan was a promising star out of Burke Mountain Academy in Vermont who qualified for his first Olympics at the age of 22. In 2014, he was 13th in the slalom at the Sochi Olympic Games. A knee injury in the 2014/15 season sidelined him for 2 full seasons until his return to World Cup action in January 2018. He made his return in Wengen, Switzerland where he finished 20th.



Tucker Marshall is a member of Redneck Racing from Pittsfield, VT. He is currently ranked 9th in the Nor-Am Cup Slalom standings.



AJ Ginnis is a member of the United States Ski Team from Vouliagmeni, Greece. Ginnis finished 2nd in the 2017 Pro Ski Challenge at Sunday River but was unfortunately sidelined from the 2018 White Mountain Dual Challenge at Waterville Valley due to a back injury sustained in qualifying. He attended Green Mountain Valley School in Vermont and was the 2017 US and Canadian national slalom champion.



Carl O. Berry



Michael Ankeny is a member of Team Slalom Tokyo Drift from Wayzata, MN. He was the 2015 Nor-Am Cup Overall Champion and has three top-25 finishes in World Cup races. He has finished third in two straight World Pro Ski Tour races this season. In the off season he attends Dartmouth College.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

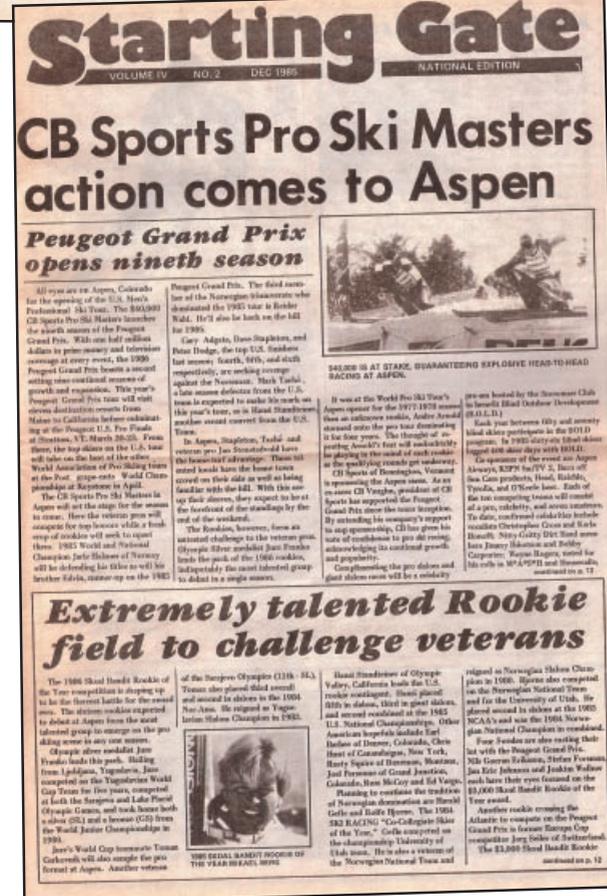
DECEMBER 1985:
Aspen was hosting Ed Rogers' ninth season of the Peugeot Grand Prix, the forerunner to the U.S. Pro Ski Tour.

Norwegians Jarle and Edvin Halsnes along with Reidar Wahl were at the top of the charts. Americans trying to knock them off included Cary Adgate, Dave Stapleton, Peter Dodge and Vail's Terry Ahola.

Aspenite and former U.S. Ski Team member Mark Taché was entering his second year as a pro and proving he had what it takes to compete.

Nationwide television coverage was announced for the 1986 season.

The Snowmass Club Invitational Celebrity Pro-Am paired Peugeot pros with stage, screen and sports celebrities to benefit Blind Outdoor Leadership Development (B.O.L.D.). Participants included: vocalists Christopher Cross and Karla Bonoff, members of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band, tv's Wayne Rogers, and movie personalities Lynn-Holly Johnson and Christie McNichols.



Starting Gate photos by Lisa Mutz-Nelson.



Pro Ski racing has a rich history at Aspen

MARCH 1996:
The Austrians Hans Hofer, Sebastian Vitzthum and Bernhard Knauss were sitting at the top of the standings with Americans Erik Schlopy and Felix McGrath in the hunt.

USA's Julie Parisien had claimed the title on the Women's Pro Ski Tour with Sweden's Camilla Lundback vowing to make a comeback next year.

Aspen Memories

By Dale Strobe
Professional ski racing will reach back to its roots when the U.S. Pro Ski Tour returns to Aspen this weekend.

In addition to offering a stage for the best skiers in the world, the Chrysler World Pro Ski Championships will provide an historic reminder of the eventful beginnings of professional skiing in the U.S.

Twenty years after the seeds of pro skiing were scattered on the snow-covered slopes of Colorado's marquee ski resort, pro ski racers will bring their dual format elimination-style back to Aspen Mountain.

And with them, they will bring the personal memories of professional ski racing in Aspen.

Personal memories of people like Bob Beattie, the television sports figure who brought pro ski racing to the U.S. Beattie, who also created the popular NASTAR recreational racing program, bases his World Wide Ski Corp. out of Aspen.

And personal memories of a man called Spider. Spider Sabich.

The first shining star of pro skiing in the U.S., Sabich is a name and legacy for many of today's pro racers. But in Aspen, Sabich remains a skier — an incredible skier who happened to be one of the best ski racers in the world. The long-time locals in Aspen revel in retelling stories of watching him ski the famed bumps on the ridge of Bell Mountain or powder skiing in Garnett's Gulch on the Big Burn at what was then a youthful Snowmass.

Sabich's legacy, which ended in Aspen, comes alive again every year when the U.S. Pro Ski Tour brings its pro races back to the Central Rockies. And while some in Aspen recall watching the dynamic Sabich skiing on the dual courses, others in Aspen recall more recent

pro skiing memories. Memories of Aspen natives Dave Stapleton and Mark Tache, the two pro ski racers who ended their illustrious careers last season at the Chrysler World Championships in their hometown.

Today, the two former racers retain prominent roles in the Aspen ski community with Tache directing the Aspen Ski Club's local racing program and Stapleton manning Aspen Ski Mart, a family business. And both are still racing — sort of.

Earlier this winter, Tache's Aspen Ski Club sponsored the first Aspen Gigantissimo, a community top-to-bottom giant slalom on Aspen Mountain. The Gigantissimo, patterned after European community ski races, featured a 177-gate challenge for Aspen skiers ages 8 to 68.

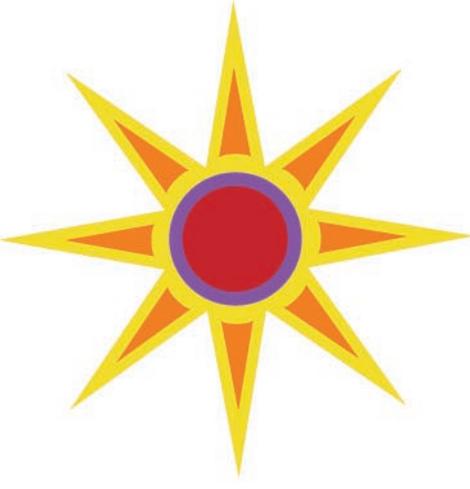
Guess who won? Stapleton, of course, and Tache was right behind, in spite of the fact he had been up most of the previous night setting the gates for the summit-to-base fundraising race.

Stapleton and Tache — back home in Aspen — will be on hand for the 1993 Chrysler World Championships as will Glenwood Springs' John Buxman, the popular movie house operator in his eighth year on the Tour from the community just down the valley from Aspen.

The races last season attracted, as usual, large and vocal crowds in Aspen. And this year the races will be moved down to the Little Nell run at the base of Aspen Mountain with the expectation of even larger crowds to witness what undoubtedly will become even more vivid memories of pro ski racing in Aspen.

Dale Strobe is the Sports Editor of the Aspen Times Daily / Aspen Times Weekly

"Sabich's legacy, which ended in Aspen, comes alive again every year when the U.S. Pro Ski Tour brings its pro races back to the Central Rockies."



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Pro Tips

By Pam Fletcher



JUMP TO WIN

Negotiating the two pro bumps in a World Pro Ski Tour course is key to winning. The racers are faster on the snow than they are in the air. The racer wants to come off the jumps in a balanced position but also make an aggressive move to land early in order to start the next turn. If the athletes are skiing out of control and are not prepared for the jump, they risk losing speed in the next few turns or even worse, falling. Successfully navigating these jumps is what separates the best pros from the rest.

Tale of the Michaels: Michael Ankeny and Michael Boardman display two radically different techniques while side-by-side off the bump.

Kei Kullberg photo.



Low and fast: Pros need to get their skis back on snow as quickly as possible.

Mike Gridley photo.

STARTING FAST

Like in life, timing is everything. World Pro Ski Tour dual races can be won or lost here at the start. The announcer says, "Red Course Ready, Blue Course Ready, Racers Ready, Go!" and then opens the gates. This year the tour has gone back to the traditional saloon style doors, which open at the chest instead of the snowboard style doors which drop down in front of the tips. The key is to have your weight back on the tails and time your move to drive forward over your poles so that you don't barge into the doors. Racers can sometimes gain more than a half second at the start – a large advantage – which can sometimes mean the difference in the race.



TV time: Former World Cup racer Pam Fletcher interviews Michael Ankeny for CBS sports television.

Craig Marshall photo.

KEEP ON FIGHTING.
KEEP ON PLAYING.
KEEP ON DARING.

KEEP ON RACING

Väiki



No horsing around: With the saloon (horse) style starting gates, the pros must time their exit carefully or risk losing valuable tenths of a second. Note in the photo at right how the near racer is just leaving his gate while the further racer is already gone.

Lisa Mutz-Nelson photos.



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- THE WORLD PRO SKI TOUR -

FOLLOWING THE FINISH



Fan-tastic: Young skiers bump gloves with pro racer Rob Kelley.

From the North: Canadian racers pause for a pose at the Waterville Valley Resort event.



Lisa Mutz-Nelson photos



Staff time: Lisa Mutz-Nelson, John Jacobs, Kevin Keiley and Christopher Lincoln take a well-deserved break with the Tito's girls.



Ready to race: The pros take time to create a photo that will be memorable in years to come.

Tito's Handmade Vodka

Rookie of the Year Standings

- 1 Nolan Kasper 35 pts
- 2 Johnny Manekin 10
- 2 Kei Kullberg 10
- 5 Sam Ricker 5
- 5 Peter Ankeny 5
- 5 Keefe Gorman 5



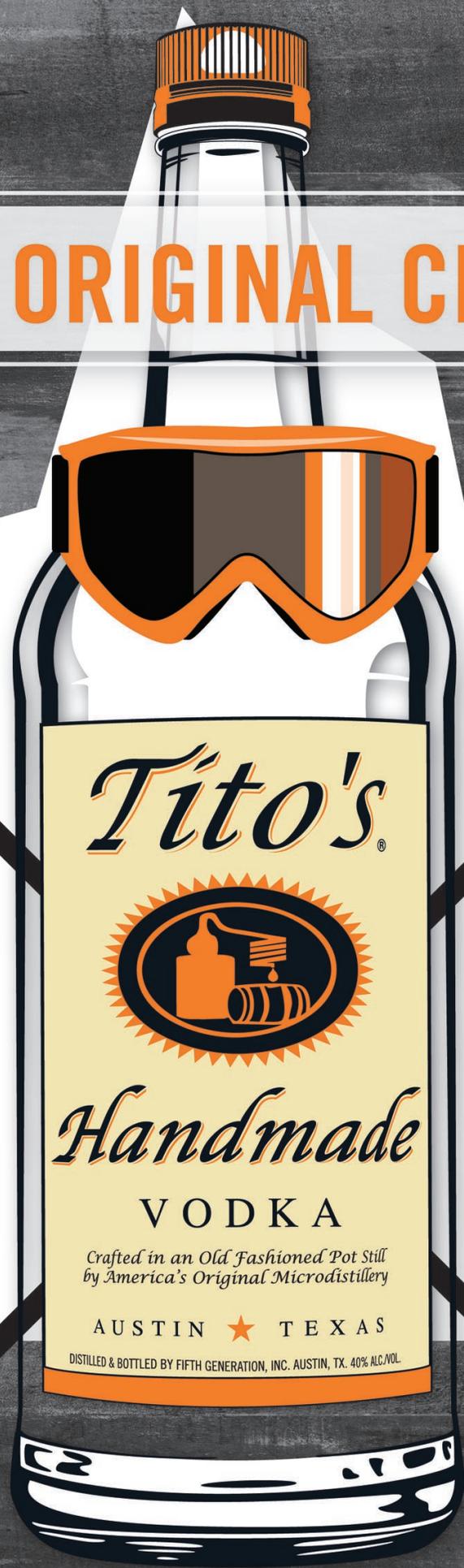
After dark: The après race parties are sure to be legendary with the Tito's Racing Team. Lisa Mutz-Nelson photos



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TITO'S HANDMADE VODKA WEEKEND OF EVENTS

Thurs. March 8th

Tito's Apres Promo 3-5pm - Base Camp

Fri. March 9th

Tito's Apres Promo 3-5pm - Venga Venga

Tito's After Dark Party 9-11pm - The Grey Lady

Sat. March 10th

Tito's Apres Promo 3:30-5:30pm - Base Camp

RMPSC Closing Party 8-10pm - The Red Onion