

At Snow Carnival Of South

Ski Racing Assn. Tour Coming To Northwest

Billy Kidd To Feature 2-Day Race

The International Ski Racing Association tour, which previously has been confined to the fabled slopes of Europe, Canada and the Rocky Mountain areas America, is heading South—to North Carolina's highlands.

The Snow Carnival of the South will stage Dixie's first professional ski race at Beech Mountain and at Sugar Mountain on Feb. 8-9, to kick off a week-long schedule of Carnival festivities.

Many of the leading pro skiers in the world, including sensational Billy Kidd, will be competing in the two-day ISRA races for a \$15,000 purse and ownership of the first North Carolina Ski Cup.

Robert Bingham, President of the Snow Carnival of the South which this year runs from Feb. 8 through Feb. 15, announced Monday that approximately 40 pro skiers will participate in the head-to-head racing events.

"We feel extremely fortunate, and certainly delighted, to have been able to line up this great ISRA tour event for the Watauga-Avery county area," Bingham said. "Our purse of \$15,000 is topped only by the Lange Cup races and the World Professional Championships... in fact, the European Championship matches last year offered only \$12,500," he added.

Both the Lange Cup event, at Vail, Colo. last month, and the World Pro Championships in Verbier, Switz., were televised nationally. The growth of interest in and appeal of the unique format of ISRA racing events is vividly depicted by the fact that almost twice as many TV viewers watched a recent ski race than watched the Masters Golf Tournament

last spring.

"The nation-wide and even world-wide attention that this pro ski racing event will bring to North Carolina—and especially to the Watauga-Avery County area—will be enormous," said Dick Barkley,

Carnival promotion director. "The results, whether they be measured economically or otherwise, we expect to be staggering."

The ISRA, currently boasting some 75 members,

conducts its races by the same format as followed in a tennis tournament. Each competition matches one skier against another on identical parallel courses, with them speeding 60 miles-per-hour, side-by-side. The head-to-head competition

builds to a climax of two undefeated skiers in the final match.

The 1970-71 ISRA schedule saw competitions commence last month in the U. S. Rockies. The tour continued in January in Europe, and moves into Canada in February. After the Feb. 8-9 Snow Carnival of the South's North Carolina Ski Cup races, the tour continues in the United States into March. A total of about 12 competitions are slated for this winter.

The star of the ISRA tour is Kidd, who has the most unique distinction of currently being the World Amateur Champion and also the World Professional Champion.

Kidd, the first American to win as high as a silver medal in Olympic competition (which he accomplished in 1964 at Innsbruck, Austria), captured the amateur title in early 1970 at Val Gardena, Italy. Just one month later, he claimed the professional championship at

Verbier, Switzerland. He is 27-years-old.

The Snow Carnival of the South, in just its third year, is staged in conjunction with the five ski resort areas in Watauga-Avery counties—Appalachian Ski Mountain, Beech Mountain, Hound Ears, Seven Devils and Sugar Mountain.

Spicing the week-long festivities this year will be numerous special apres-ski entertainment events at each of the resorts, a Snow Ball, a Snow Queen Contest, Intercollegiate Ski Races, official NASTAR races, a Snow Carnival of the South Parade, ice skating, ski fashion show, torchlight ski exhibitions, a concert by the New Christy Minstrels, night-time skiing (including all-night skiing at one area), art shows, a sky-ski dive by an expert parachutist, and a meeting of the N. C. Board of Conservation and Development. Gov. Bob Scott will be attending the Carnival for the second year in a row. A highlight of the Snow Carnival week will have all five ski resorts offering half-price skiing on week-days.

The Snow Carnival of the South is a production of the N. C. Winter Sports Association, with co-sponsors being the Avery County Chamber of Commerce, the Boone area Chamber of Commerce, and the Blowing Rock Chamber of Commerce.



The Christmas Court

At Watauga High School, Duane Thomas made this photo of the 1970 Christmas Court and Santa Claus-Helper Eugene Byrd. The girls (from left) are Karla Hoffman, freshman attendant; Kathy Vines, junior attendant; Mary Campbell, Queen; Susan Hodges, senior attendant; and Kris Robinson, sophomore attendant.



MARTHA LAWRENCE

Yule Music Is Presented

The Primary and Junior choir of the First Baptist Church presented a program of Christmas music Sunday evening (Dec. 20).

Hand bells introduced the service and narrator Gerald Hodges told the story of the Holy Nativity.

Appropriate carols and anthems were sung by the choir. Chori director is Mrs. Johnny Barnett and accompanist is Eric Farthing.

Career Girl Of Month Is Guest Of BPW

Miss Martha Lawrence and her mother, Mrs. Jack D. Lawrence of Boone, were honor guests of the Boone Business and Professional Women's Club at their Christmas meeting.

Martha was selected by a faculty committee to represent Watauga High School as Career Girl of the Month for December.

Now a senior at Watauga, she plans to attend Appalachian State University next year to major in primary education.

School activities in which Martha engages are the chorus, band, the student council and the Future Teachers of America. She has participated in all-state band and is pianist for a youth choir in her church. She is chief majorette and librarian of the high school band.

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