

# Thurlow wins fourth title; U.S. telemark team named

ASPEN — With dry-wall shims on his boots and a sleek lycra suit, three-time telemark champion Whitney Thurlow clinched his fourth straight title at the 1987 Vikin Fjord National Telemark Championships, March 27-29.

Giving Thurlow the best fight was Armin Bischofberger, a ski instructor at Stratton Mountain and a native of Switzerland. This was the first time an Eastern skier had made it into the final round of the telemark championships. Crowds of Eastern and Western fans cheered Bischofberger throughout the round, screaming for "The Beast from the East."

With his victory, Thurlow, of Crystal Mountain, Wash., also earned a spot on the first U.S. Telemark Ski Team. Although this team will function primarily as a demonstration team to promote the sport in the U.S., two of its members — Thurlow and Andrea Ryan — left for the unofficial Telemark World Championships in Norway.

1986 Norwegian national champion and Vikin Fjord Series leader Hans Gunleiksrud, 75.16. The third man over the line was Aspen local Peter Rugheimer, sporting an odd looking pair of alpine skis that he had milled down to the legal width of 73mm. In the women's division, Arnesen beat out Hasterlik.

There were over 300 racer starts in the three-day championship. Competitors came from eight states, Canada, Japan, and Norway.

### U.S. TELEMAR SKI TEAM

- Whitney Thurlow . . . . . Crystal Mtn., Wash.
- Mark Lance . . . . . Littleton, Colo.
- Steve Baeder . . . . . Alta, Utah
- Jim Poore . . . . . Brighton, Utah
- Mark Bridges . . . . . Frisco, Colo.
- Heidi Stutzman . . . . . Boise, Idaho
- Andrea Ryan . . . . . Boulder, Colo.
- Kate Hasterlik . . . . . Jackson, N.H.



Richard Compton photo

Jim Poore's results at nationals earned him a spot on the U.S. team.

## Americans place well