

# Telemarkers Want Place at 2002 Table

## Demonstration Status First Step

BY WINA STURGEON  
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

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Al Hartmann/The Salt Lake Tribune

National telemark skiing champion Chris Rice carves a path around a pole on a slalom course during a practice at Park City.

Chris Rice is a national champion three years running.

Unfortunately, few people know about him or his beautiful sport, telemark racing.

The sport is named for the way skiers turn: with one leg in front of the other and both knees deeply bent in a graceful swooping motion. It requires perfect balance, coordination, and leg strength. It is almost like ballet.

Telemarking began about 150 years ago in the region of Telemark, Norway. There, a skier named Sondre Norheim developed the first standard method for turning on skis. Prior to that, "people tried to step their skis around as best they could, but there was no established technique," said Rice.

Telemarkers, like cross-country skiers, have a "free heel" binding that holds only the toe of the boot to the ski. Unlike the stiff plastic boot used by alpine, or downhill skiers, the telemark boot is flexible, allowing the foot to bend. The sport combines elements of both cross-country and alpine, but is slower and more graceful.

But a sport today must have Olympic acceptance to be lucrative and popular, no matter how beautiful it is or how much athletic prowess it demands. The only exception may be golf.

So Rice, 35, works to earn a bare living during the spring, summer and fall and saves every cent he can. Then he spends the winter training and racing. This winter, for the first time, he is training in the Wasatch mountains, with the Park City Master's program.

While he trains, he is waiting.

"After Nagano, decisions will start to be made for 2002," Rice explains. "We are having our World Cup finals here. Four races will be at Park City, two races will be at Snowbird. I believe members of the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee and the U.S. Olympic Committee will be present at our event to view our sport."

Rice said that if SLOC decides to include telemark racing in 2002, it will be as a cultural event or a demonstration sport. But he is hoping for eventual official Olympic medal status.

"Even more than making the Olympics, I want telemark racing to become something people appreciate and experience. It demands so much athletically. I

want people to see the most incredible skiers that I've ever seen," he said. His love for his sport dictates every aspect of his life. "It's a deep passion for me."

Rice was an alpine racer as a teenager.

"But I was in the middle of the pack as a ski racer, so then I became just a free skier," he said.

He stopped skiing while he went to college, but then began working for a backcountry hiking organization with a lot of telemark skiers.

"From that point on, I began telemarking," Rice said. That was in 1986. In 1990, he began racing. He has been on the U.S. telemark ski team for five years, and is the top ranked telemark racer in the country.

Internationally, telemark racing consists of three events, or disciplines: slalom; giant slalom; and a classic terrain race, which consists of turns, jumps and a cross-country stretch.

As Rice practices for the championships five days a week on the Eagle Run race arena at Park City Mountain resort, spectators stop to watch him.

"Chris is definitely the best athlete who trains with us," said Master's coach Bill Skinner. "His agility and ability to come down the hill without a heel piece is impressive."

"Rice pursues his sport with all his passion. He has never been married. He has no girlfriend. When asked to describe himself, Rice said, "I'm a loner. I'm a guitar player. I live in the mountains."

"I pursue my joys because that's what I choose to do, and that's how I find a deeper reward. But if telemark racing does not make the Olympics, on one hand I'll see it as a missed opportunity to progress. It should bounce up another level. But if it doesn't, it's still the same people getting together every year and competing," he said.

Yet if the SLOC decides to include telemark racing, it may be too late for Rice. A few months before those Olympics, he will have turned 39.

"If it makes the Olympics, I will be glad and proud. I'll be proud of having helped fulfill that dream. But I don't believe that in four years, I will be falling that much down the ranks in the U.S.," he said.

Rice knows that people will not throng the sides of the race courses during the championships, which are March 22-29. "I wish they would," he said. "I want people to recognize that this is truly an Olympic worthy event. Right now, some of the best and most athletic skiers in the world are telemarkers."

Park Record March 20, 1989

# Waser, Johansson take GS

## World Cup 'tele' racing continues at PCMR this weekend with single-pole slalom and sprint classic

by **Dave Fields**  
OF THE RECORD STAFF

Swiss telemark skier Marcel Waser topped the field of international skiers competing in the World Cup giant slalom held Wednesday at Park City Mountain Resort.

Waser edged Antti-Pekka Auvinen of Finland by a half-second and in third place was Bjarne Rickardson of Sweden. The lone American in the men's top 10 was Chris Rice in fourth place. Rice hails from the eastern U.S. but moved to Salt Lake this winter and trained with the Park City Masters.

Rice had a second-place finish in the Snowbird GS earlier in the week. He said his first run on CB's was a little shaky but he improved on the second. According to Rice, training for telemark racing is much like alpine.

"Most of the technical aspects carry right over," said Rice. "The differences are relatively slight, the commonalities are huge."

Competitors skied from the top of CB's around alpine-style gates but had to sail off a man-made jump about two-thirds of the

way down the run. Three pine bough lines are marked in the snow and if competitors don't reach a certain line they are penalized with extra time. Racers must also turn using the drop-knee telemark turn with their ski boots at least one boot-length apart. Penalties are assessed if the racers use a parallel turn.

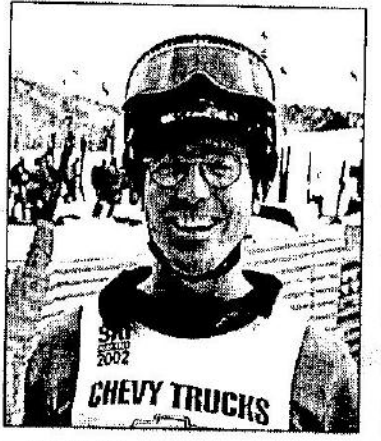
Salt Lake racer Jimmy Ludlow, who trains with the Park City Masters, said if skiers were coming out of there telemark stance it was on the top portion of the course.

"A lot of people were getting out of balance and going into a parallel," said Ludlow.

Backcountry telemark skier John Dorsey had never turned around a gate before this week but thought he'd give it a try. Even though most of this week's races are International Ski Federation-sanctioned, Dorsey found out entrants needed no minimum race points or prior racing experience.

"I wanted to meet some fun free-heel aficionados," said Dorsey, 35. "It's fun. I'm a free-heel lover and figured some of

Please see 'Tele', B-11



DAVE FIELDS/PARK RECORD

**Jimmy Ludlow sails off the mid-course jump Wednesday. Ludlow finished 33rd Wednesday. Inset: John Dorsey raced for the first time this week.**

# 'Tele' racing

Continued from B-7

the best (telemark) skiers in the world would be here."

Dorsey, who "spins tables" (waits) at the Riverhorse Cafe on Main Street, may have enjoyed racing but he's not delaying his five-week ski vacation to Alaska starting next week. He would however, take a couple more runs down CB's.

"I wish there were six runs," said Dorsey.

On the women's side, Norway's Hege Johansson edged Andrea Walker of Switzerland for the top spot and Swiss telemarketer Mirjam Rubin finished third.

Although the sides of the course were "soft and slushy" because of warm temperatures, rain and hail Wednesday, the racer's path was kept smooth and hard with fertilizer.

"For having so much rain in the last few days the course was in remarkable shape," said Dorsey. He added that the Snowbird course was "the hardest snow I've ever skied."

# in Park City

Racing continues at Park City Mountain Resort with the World Cup sprint classic and then the dual slalom tomorrow.

### Men's GS

1. Marcel Waser SUI 2:21.88
2. Antti-Pekka Auvinen FIN 2:22.31
3. Bjarne Rickardson SWE 2:23.14
4. Chris Rice USA 2:23.76
5. Sondre Engell NOR 2:24.06
6. Bruno Senni SUI 2:24.58
7. Brede Birkeland NOR 2:24.61
8. Fredy Lamothe CAN 2:25.28
9. Patrick Leopold SUI 2:26.09
10. Manuel Berrolin FRA 2:26.23
23. Scott McGee
33. James Ludlow
41. John Dorsey

### Women's GS

1. Hege Johansson NOR 2:33.87
2. Andrea Walker SUI 2:33.92
3. Mirjam Rubin SUI 2:37.13
4. Huguenette Bratsatz FRA 2:37.94
5. Lesley Beck GBR 2:41.47
6. Grete Flemmen NOR 2:43.43
7. Marise Bratsatz FRA 2:49.13
8. Darja Azman SLO 2:49.77
9. Martina Rauter CAN 2:49.80
10. Marina Branger SUI 2:50.46

# Dahl, Goicoechea Get Titles In Snow Cup Skiing Event

BY CRAIG HANSELL

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

**SNOWBIRD** — An old name and a new one will be added to the historic Snow Cup after Sunday as former winner Ivar Dahl and Kali Goicoechea earned the two-day victories.

While Dahl, a 29-year-old representative of Technica Boots and Volkl Skis, won for the second day in a row, Kali placed second Sunday to Stacey Cash. Cash, 17, a junior at Boise High School, had fallen in Saturday's race. With nothing to lose Sunday, "I went after the win," she said. "I was all over the place."

She will be back at Snowbird next month for the Last Chance Slaloms to end the season.

Dahl won the Snow Cup four years ago on the same Primrose run, while he was coaching at Park City. This month, Dahl had been assisting skiers at the U.S. National Alpine Championships at Jackson Hole, Wyo., and saw the Snow Cup on the schedule.

He started No. 1 and had a perfect first-run course. The second run was rougher, because he was 15th on the course. Of course it might have been the two runs of powder skiing between race runs that colored his perception of the second-run course.

Dahl will fly home to Lebanon, N.H. today with another victory in one of America's more historic events.

Goicoechea, 17, has skied with the Sun Valley program for six years. A better slalom than giant slalom skier, she will also return here for the Last Chance Slaloms.

Although she graduates this year, Goicoechea plans to stay with the Sun Valley program next year and attempt to make the U.S.

## Ski Team.

### Snow Cup

1. Stacey Cash, Bogus Basin, 1:36.63. 2. Kali Goicoechea, Sun Valley, 1:38.03. 3. Maggie Acker, Sun Valley, 1:38.00.  
Men — 1. Ivar Dahl, Lebanon, N.H., 1:31.00. 2. Jeremy Stoddard, Snowbird, 1:31.16. 3. Ryan Forsyth, UofU, 1:31.60.

## TELEMARK SKIING

**PARK CITY** — Park City resident Chris Rice skied two runs without parallel penalties and placed second to Sweden's Bjarne Rickardson in the Great American Telemark Festival dual slalom on Clementine run Sunday.

Americans skied well. Rice, Reid Sabin and Neil Person, both from Whitefish, Mont., and Taug Boshen all finished in the top nine in the men's race.

Lesley Beck, from Scotland, edged Dana Breslau, Boston, Mass., and Salt Lake City skier Lori Stahler for the women's win.

Skiers competed on two parallel courses with the time from each run added together for the final result. Sunday's event did not count for World Cup points but it was a U.S.-points race.

### Single-Pair Slalom

Men — 1. Bjarne Rickardson, Sweden, 1 minute 26.13 seconds. 2. Chris Rice, Park City, 1:26.23. 3. Reid Sabin, Whitefish, Mont., 1:30.34.  
Women — 1. Lesley Beck, Scotland, 1:42.01. 2. Dana Breslau, Boston, Ma., 1:43.45. 3. Lori Stahler, Salt Lake City, 1:52.70.

### World Cup Telemark Final Standings

Overall Men's World Cup final standings — 1. Marcel Waser, Switzerland. 2. Patrick Leopold, Switzerland. 3. Bjarne Rickardson, Sweden. 4. Stein Kjarten Vik, Norway. 5. Antti-Pekka Arvinen, Finland. Americans — 10. Chris Rice. 28. Reid Sabin. 33. Taug Boshen. 39. Scott McGee.  
Women — 1. Hegge Johansson, Norway. 2. Marina Branger, Switzerland. 3. Andrea Walker, Switzerland. Americans — 13. Lori Stahler.

# Utahns Haddick, Wise Command Moguls at Alta Telemark Festival

BY CRAIG HANSELL

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

**ALTA** — Utah skiers ruled the Great American Telemark Festival mogul competition Friday.

Seth Haddick won the men's event to extend his Alta telemark mogul streak and Alta librarian Elizabeth Wise put together the right mix of turns with twister-spread eagle jumps to earn the women's victory.

Although not a World Cup event, Friday's Great American Tele Fest mogul competition tested the free-heel skiers' turns, aerials and control down Stimulation run.

Haddick, skiing for Salt Lake's Evolution Ski Company, has won the last four Alta telemark mogul contests as well as the last four Breckenridge Bumps Buffet events in Colorado.

A 10-year resident of Alta, Wise has

been a telemark skier for two seasons. She manages to leave the library and ski four days a week.

Skiing through a firm mogul field, skiers popped everything from twist-spreads, to helicopters and even a somersault jump on their free-heel telemark skis.

Telemark Festival action continues today with a sprint classic terrain race at Park City Mountain Resort, starting at 9:30 a.m. The Tele Fest concludes Sunday with a dual slalom on Clementine run at Park City. The festival has attracted 60 men, 20 women and 25 masters skiers to conclude the World Cup Telemark season.

### Women

1. Elizabeth Wise, Alta, 45.20 points. 2. Lesley Beck, Great Britain, 44.10. 3. Linda Peterson, Alta, 34.10.

### Men

1. Seth Haddick, Midway/Deer Valley, 49.10. 2. Bill Lerch, Colorado, 47.60. 3. Christian Gensserman, USA, 44.90.

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# Sports.

The Park Record.  
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SPORTS EDITOR: Dave Fields 649-9014 ext.110

## Rice's finishes make telemark record books

■ Salt Laker's results are the best ever for an American in World Cup telemark racing

by Dave Fields  
OF THE RECORD STAFF

Chris Rice and Bjarne Rickardsson duelled throughout last week's Great American Telemark Festival and Sunday's dual-slalom on CB's Run was no exception.

After penalties were calculated, Rice came out on top and concluded the best showing by an American in international telemark skiing competition.

Rice, who lives part-time in Salt Lake and trains with the Park City Masters, placed second in both the giant slalom and classic sprint. Rice also skied to a fourth-place finish as well as two fifths.

"The atmosphere of the international competition is exciting ... I just find that it is such a heightened energy experience for me - I just love it," said Rice.

Before last week, the best American finish in a telemark World Cup was a third.

Sunday's slalom concluded nine days of free-heel competition held at Park City Mountain Resort (classic, sprint classic, dual-slalom and giant slalom), the Utah Winter Sports Park (jumping), Snowbird (sprint classic) and Alta (mogul).

Rickardsson, a summertime electronic salesman in Sweden, won Saturday's sprint classic and recorded a third and fourth in the two PCMR giant slaloms as well as an eighth at Snowbird.

Rickardsson's six top-10 finishes in Utah move him to third for the now-con-

cluded telemark World Cup season. Rice finished 10th, another record for an American telemark skier. Sunday's slalom race was not a World Cup event and did not count toward the World Cup standings.

Before winter returned to Utah Friday, racers were turning on relatively soft snow - by racing standards. Rickardsson, who describes his home snow as "blue ice," said he struggled with the snow conditions.

"I've been having problems with the snow, it's much softer than at home," said the 29-year-old multi-sport athlete.

Rickardsson left Monday for Sweden where he will compete in the Swedish National Championship that includes telemark, alpine and snowboard competitions. Although he is an accomplished alpine skier and snowboarder in addition to being one of the world's best telemark skiers, Rickardsson said his favorite is telemark. "The ski turns in a different way," Rickardsson said.

The grueling format of classic racing, in which racers skate uphill and ski over jumps, suits Rickardsson who calls himself a technical skier with a strong upper body that he uses to his advantage in the skate races. "It gets quite tiring," Rickardsson said of classic racing. "It's the most spectacular for people to watch."

Although the technique of telemark is the oldest skiing style, the equipment used by the competitors was anything but antique. Almost all of the racers used



DAVE FIELDS/PARK RECORD

Part-time Salt Lake resident Chris Rice (left) and Bjarne Rickardsson of Sweden finished one-two in Sunday's slalom event at Park City Mountain Resort.

hard-shell plastic telemark boots with ratcheting buckles. The main difference between the alpine and telemark race boots is the flex point at the ball of the foot.

The bindings - mostly cable or three-pin/cable combinations - are mounted atop risers to increase angulation and prevent the binding and boot from hitting the

snow while turning.

Some of the racers used telemark-specific skis while others used alpine skis.

Just like almost all of the other racers competing at the Eagle Race Arena, telemark skiers wore skin-tight lycra suits and helmets.

World Cup telemark racing will return to Park City next year.

TUESDAY MARCH 24, 1998

TRB

# Swiss Set Pace At Snowbird's Telemark Meet

BY CRAIG HANSELL  
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

SNOWBIRD — Swiss speedsters Andrea Walker and Patrick Leopold made distinctive telemark turns down Primrose run and skied the fastest giant slalom times as the Great American Telemark Festival continued Monday.

Walker, 27, a ski instructor in Switzerland, took up telemark skiing five years ago. She has been racing on the World Cup circuit for four years and finished third last season in the giant slalom standings.

Walker completed her runs in 2:02.84. Another Swiss skier, Mirina Branger (2:02.98) was second and Hege Johansson, (2:04.36) from Norway, was third.

Salt Lake City's Lori Stahler earned the fastest time for an American woman. Monday's field included former University of Utah All-American alpine skier Katja Lesjak, who skied for Slovenia in her first telemark race.

The demanding course began near the Peruvian Lift top terminal and wound down Primrose. Skiers also had to clear a specified distance off a mid-course jump, in addition to completing each turn with a telemark, to achieve the highest score.

TRIB SUNDAY MARCH 29, 1998

# Rickardson, Branger Win in Telemark

BY CRAIG HANSELL  
THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

PARK CITY — Skiers from Switzerland and Sweden won World Cup Telemark sprint classic races Saturday in the Great American Telemark Festival.

Swedish skier Bjarne Rickardson edged Park City's Chris Rice for the men's victory and Switzerland's Marina Branger nipped Great Britain's Lesley Beck.

The sprint classic — a shorter edition of the classic terrain race that combines giant slalom skiing with a mid-course jump and cross country skating section — started below the Gotcha Face on CB's run at Park City Mountain Resort.

The Great Tele Fest concludes today with a parallel slalom. This year's World Cup Telemark champions will be announced tonight in a banquet at the new Old Mill Golf Course.

Leopold made his two trips off Primrose in 1:55.34. Utah resident Chris Rice, the three-time U.S. Telemark champion, earned a two-run time of 1:55.34 to edge Norway's Stein Vik (1:56.88), the World Cup Telemark giant slalom points leader. Leopold is in a tight battle with Vik for the World Cup.

Rice's plan: "Be aggressive on the steep, then put it down and try not to blow it." He acknowledged a little trouble after the jump, but his time was still impressive.

Vik skied a blistering first run. "The second run was not good. The course had bumps in it and I got thrown out of the course," said Vik. Asked his impression after his first race in Utah, "It is very hot."

Vik, 23, finished last season in fourth place overall on the World Cup standings. He had grown up as an alpine skier and ski jumper before concentrating on telemark skiing when he was 16. With four Utah Telemark Festival races left, he hopes to fend off Swiss skier Patrick Leopold (No. 3 in the standings) for the season title.

Telemark skiers have today off and resume competition Wednesday with another giant slalom at Park City, starting at 9:30 a.m.

### Women

- 1. Marina Branger, Switzerland, 2 minutes 20.21 seconds. 2. Lesley Beck, Great Britain, 2:23.79. 3. Andrea Walker, Switzerland, 2:23.92. Other Americans: 7. Lori Stahler, 2:44.34. 11. Dana Breslau, Boston, 2:59.72.

### Men

- 1. Bjarne Rickardson, Sweden, 2:01.81. 2. Chris Rice, Park City, 2:04.59. 3. Marcel Waser, Switzerland, 2:05.02. Other Americans: 12. Reid Sabin, Montana, 2:12.83. 18. Glenn Gustafson, Montana, 2:19.33. 20. Taug Boschen, Snowbird, 2:21.10.

### SNOW CUP

SNOWBIRD — Ivar Dahl had the fastest giant slalom trip down Primrose run in winning the Snow Cup. Sun Valley skier Kali Goicoechea won the women's race.

If both Dahl and Goicoechea can hold onto their leads in the second race today at 10 a.m., their names will be added to the Snow Cup trophy.

### Giant Slalom

- Men: 1. Ivar Dahl, independent, 1:36.59. 2. Jeremy Stoddard, Snowbird, 1:36.90. 3. Brian Friedman, Park City, 1:38.17.

### Women

- 1. Kali Goicoechea, Sun Valley, Idaho, 1:43.07. 2. Vicki Bates, Spokane, Wash., 1:43.49. 3. Christal Wright, Jackson, Wyo., 1:53.39.

# Telemark fest is coming to Park City

by Jimmy Ludlow  
SPECIAL TO THE RECORD

The free world descends upon the Wasatch March 20th- 29th. That is the free heel world.

Telemark skiers representing 12 different nations will be in Utah to compete in the FIS Telemark World Cup Finals.

The Telemark turn style is considered to be one of the original forms of skiing developed in the Telemark region of Norway in the mid-1800s. Modern telemark racing is comprised of three events — the giant slalom, classic and sprint class. GS, which is similar to an alpine GS except that skiers go off a jump mid course (typically 25-30 mph) and are judged on time and style.

Failure to have a clean telemark turn and simultaneous transition between turns can result in a one-second time penalty. The classic terrain is a combination of the three Nordic disciplines (telemark turns, jumping and skating), in which skiers navigate a GS course that includes at least one 360-degree turn, a jump (distance and landing again are judged) and an uphill skating section.

The third event is a sprint classic, which is a shorter, two-run version of the classic terrain race. Added to these races will be a dual slalom on Park City Mountain Resort's Clementine race hill March 29. The FIS World Cup races begin at Snowbird March 21 and 23 with a sprint classic and GS respectively. The races then move to PCMR for the FIS World Cup Finals March 25, 26, 28 and 29. In addition to the World Cup races, the telemark festival events include a Free Heel Fly In at the Utah Winter Sports Park March 22 and a tele bumps race at Alta, March 27 and apres ski events nightly.

For more information about watching or volunteering at the Great American Telemark Festival contact the festival organizer, Maurine Bauchman, at 801-359-2554.

Although telemark is recognized by FIS it still does not have Olympic status, however, there is a strong international push for Olympic recognition. Once you have witnessed the pure athleticism combined with the excitement of a highlight film; you'll agree telemark is a truly awesome sport.

Park Record

SAT MAR



Joel Sather, a ski patroller at The Canyons, competes in his first World Cup giant slalom on Wednesday at the Utah Telemark Festival. The race started at the top of CB's run at Park City. Craig Hansell/The Salt Lake Tribune

## Leopold Shrugs Off Ninth-Place Finish

### Telemarker Already Owns Season Title

BY CRAIG HANSELL

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

PARK CITY — It was not a good day for Swiss skier Patrick Leopold — but that was OK.

Leopold had already won the two Great American Telemark Festival World Cup giant slaloms at Snowbird and had won the World Cup Telemark overall giant slalom title. The 26-year-old skier placed fifth overall and third in last year's World Cup giant slalom standings.

Hege Johansson, from Norway, edged Swiss skiers Andrea Walker and Mirjam Rubin for the women's victory. Swiss Marcel Waser edged Finland's Antti-Pekka Auvinen and Swedish skier Bjarne Rickardson for the men's victory. Chris Rice, the Park City resident and U.S. Telemark Champion who trains on this hill, was fourth.

Leopold, a telemark skier since 1991, when he took up the sport at the encouragement of his brother,

placed ninth Wednesday. He is excited about his season title and hopes the crown will bring him help enough income to cover his expenses.

He said Snowbird, where he was skiing faster, was his favorite of the two Utah venues used this week.

Wednesday's giant slalom started at the top of CB's run at Park City Mountain Resort and took skiers over the same demanding terrain tackled by World Cup alpine skiers in the annual America's Opening World Cup races. Down CB's and Gotcha Face, past the course elbow and over a jump, the telemark skiers zipped to the bottom.

"We've had every type weather," said top American Lori Stahler. "It rained, hailed and there was even some sunshine."

Stahler, a Salt Lake City resident, fell on her first run but placed 11th.

Stein Kjartan Vik, a top World Cup skier from Norway, had trouble in Wednesday's race and finished near the bottom of the rankings.

Wednesday's field included skiers from Norway, Slovenia, Swe-

den, Finland, France, Japan, Switzerland and the United States. For some, like Joel Sather a ski patroller at The Canyons, it was their first trip through a World Cup course. Sather placed 34th.

Competition continues here today with two full classic terrain races — one to make up an earlier race that was cancelled in Europe. The classic terrain race is a giant slalom combined with an uphill section.

Friday, skiers will tackle Stimulation run at Alta in a dual mogul-skiing competition. The mogul event is not part of the World Cup competition. Friday evening, the World Cup telemark community will present a video to the Salt Lake Olympic Organizing Committee, hoping to generate support for inclusion of the sport in the 2002 Winter Olympics.

The American Tele Fest concludes Saturday with a dual-format-sprint classic starting at 10 a.m.

#### Telemark Results

Park City giant slalom, women — 1. Hege Johansson, Norway, 2 minutes 33.87 seconds for two runs. 2. Andrea Walker, Switzerland, 2:33.92. 3. Mirjam Rubin, Switzerland, 2:37.13. Men — 1. Marcel Waser, Switzerland, 2:21.88. 2. Antti-Pekka Auvinen, Finland, 2:22.31. 3. Bjarne Rickardson, Sweden, 2:23.14. 4. Chris Rice, Park City, 2:23.76.



# Norwegians Dominate In Telemark

## Unique Course Forces An Uphill Ski to Finish

BY CRAIG HANSELL

THE SALT LAKE TRIBUNE

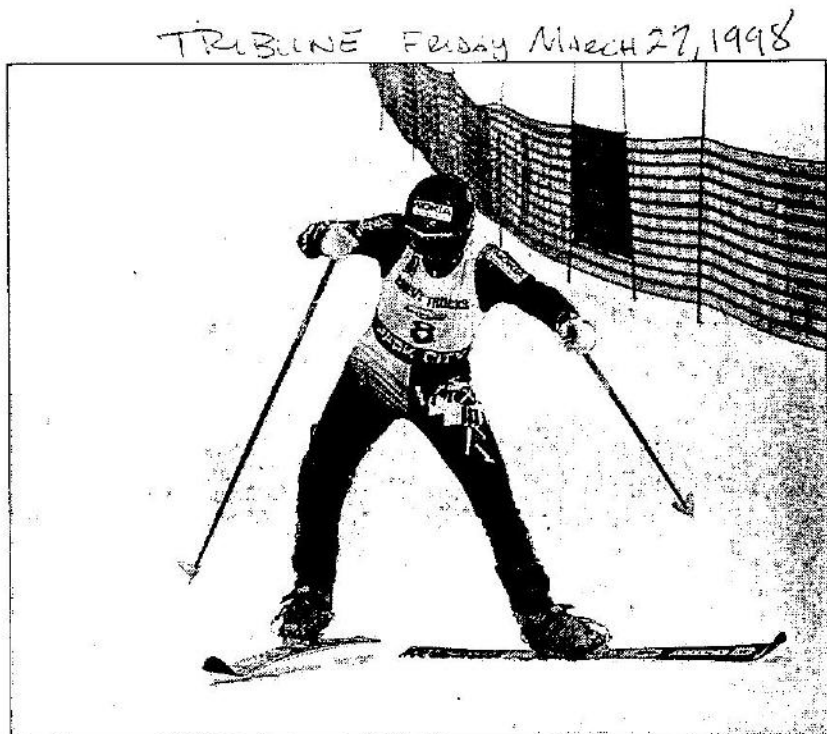
PARK CITY — Norway's Hege Johansson and Stein Kjartan Vik found the right mix of speed and endurance to ski to victory in the Great American Telemark Festival classic terrain race.

The telemark skiers started on the top of CB's run with a giant slalom race. The course also included a jump which each skier had to clear by a specified distance, and a couple of spots where skiers had to skate across the side hill. Instead of the usual downhill finish line, skiers had to skate back uphill to the finish.

Vik took 2 minutes, 5.69 seconds to complete the grueling event ahead of Marcel Waser of Switzerland (2:07.23), and Vik's Norwegian teammate, Fridjof Loen (2:07.54). Johansson won the women's race in 2:18.98 to give the Norwegians a sweep. Swiss skiers Marina Branger (2:22.32) and Andrea Walker (2:24.69) followed.

Salt Lake City skier Lori Stahler (12th, 2:40.09) and Park City resident Chris Rice (fifth, 2:09.17) were the fastest Americans.

Skiers completed the race with



Craig Hansell/The Salt Lake Tribune

Hege Johansson of Norway skis to a win Thursday in the Great American Telemark Festival Classic Terrain race at Park City.

an exhausted face plant into the snow.

"Oh, I'm sooo tired," Johansson said after finishing her second complete classic race of the day. As if one classic race wasn't enough, the skiers got to do it again later in a World Cup make-up race.

Johansson, 25, has been a telemark skier for three years. She is leading the World Cup Telemark classic standings and is second in the giant slalom standings.

"I like to compete and do a lot of different things," Johansson said of the appeal of skiing classic telemark events. She had a sore right knee — "I jumped 10 meters too long, and it was flat," she said of a jump in Norway.

Most men crossed the finish and crumpled. But Rice skated across the finish and said: "No problem. I'm in shape. It was good, very good. Except for the jump landing, I didn't feel any parallels [turns not judged to be pure telemark turns that result in seconds added to a skier's time] anywhere. I felt strong and clean" with no parallel penalties.

After he stood for a while at the finish, though, Rice wavered. "My legs feel like cement," he said. "It is creeping up on me."

Rice and Johansson will not compete in the mogul skiing event today on Stimulation run at Alta, but they expect to race Saturday and Sunday to conclude the Great American Telemark Festival.

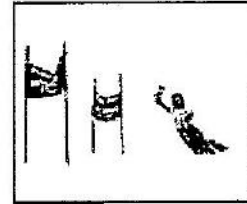


The Mountain Zone

snowboarding skiing mountain biking hiking photography climbing

## World Cup Telemark Skiing

Salt Lake City, Utah  
March 20-29, 1998



Telemark Racing

The Utah resorts of Snowbird, Alta and Park City will be jammed with the best free-heelers from 13 countries competing in the World Cup telemark finals during the Great American Telemark Festival this week.

There are over 110 expert skiers slated to compete (surprisingly, no Germans have shown up) at the home of the 2002 Winter Olympics. And if organizers here get their way, many will be back in four years to participate in telemark as an Olympic sport.

This Mountain Zone cybercast includes the three final World Cup telemark races: giant slalom, classic and sprint classic. There will also be two other FIS sanctioned telemark races (sprint classic and giant slalom) and a rescheduled classic from a cancelled race in Norway earlier this season.

The festival is also packed with local specialties like Teleworld Bumps at Alta where local free skiing pinheads may make an appearance, dual slalom at Park City, and the Free Heel Fly In where participants can join in the local flavors of the Utah Winter Sports Park for 18 and 38 meter jumps. We'll sprinkle a few of these tidbits in with the rest of our coverage, because it's fun, it's cool, and it's *all good*.

The festival provides an opportunity to demonstrate the potential of telemark racing to the Olympic Committees. The participation by racers from all over the world in this festival will assist efforts by the United States Telemark Skiing Association (USTSA) and the FIS Telemark Committee in bolstering international enthusiasm for telemark racing.

Free your virtual heel and follow our pinhead reporters through this Mountain Zone cybercast of the festivities.

— Michelle Quigley, Mountain Zone Staff

Great American Telemark Festival  
Utah Snowbird and Park City  
March 20-29  
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## World Cup Finals

### Preview

Giant Slalom

Classic

Sprint Classic

## Photos

### Gallery



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Great American Telemark Festival  
Utah Snowboard and Ski Park City  
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## World Cup Telemark Skiing

Giant Slalom  
Park City, Utah  
Wednesday, March 25, 1998



Hege Johansson (NOR)

Hege Johansson of Norway ate up this course, skiing aggressively to win the women's giant slalom, the first of three World Cup final races in Park City this week.

## World Cup Finals

Preview  
Giant Slalom  
Classic  
Sprint Classic

## Photos

Gallery



Andrea Walker (SUI)

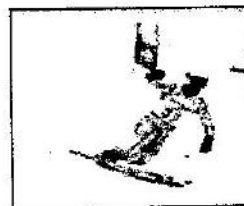
Andrea Walker (SUI) took 2nd by a mere .05 and teammate Mirjam Rubin placed third. Johansson is currently ranked 4th in giant slalom FIS points going into these finals and Walker is ranked 5th. Sixth ranked Huguette Braisaz (FRA) finished in 4th place.

The upper steep section of the course presented a few challenges for the women. Leslie Beck (GBR) was forced to climb up a few feet to round a gate when she slipped passed it, but still finished a respectable 5th place.

Norwegians were nudged out of the top four in the men's by Marcel Waser from Switzerland. In second was Antti-Pekka Auvinen of Finland, third was Bjarne Rickardson of Sweden and Chris Rice (USA) took fourth place. Rice, who finished 2nd in the week's previous giant slalom, was not happy with his 4th in the finals.



Marcel Waser (SUI)



Antti-Pekka Auvinen (FIN)

"I didn't crash, but I could have picked up a few tenths in the steep section," said Rice, who felt confident he could improve his standings in tomorrow's classic where he's especially strong in the uphill sections.

David Primozic (SLO) thought the course setting was good. "It's my first telemark race. It's all Urban's fault that I am here," said Primozic. Primozic's teammate Urban Simcic sent him out with telemark skis one day in Austria.

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"I came back with an ugly face and said, 'give me the equipment,'" said Primožic. He placed 17th and Simcic was 43rd after losing a ski after the jump."

Mother Nature rolled dice with the weather today. Sunshine, hail, rain, snow, wind and sunshine again set an ever changing stage for racing. Two tons of chemicals applied during the last two days kept the course firm and preserved, and most of the competitors said the course was in good shape and well set. The snow held up throughout the day providing a fair venue with little deterioration as the race progressed.

A telemark giant slalom course is similar to an alpine giant slalom, but with a jump that has distance and landing requirements. There is a line after the jump that racers must clear or suffer a one-second penalty. On top of that they must land in a telemark turn — none of this parallel landing and sneaking the knee down later. If they don't land telemark, they get another second added to their raw time, making it a possible two-second penalty if they don't stick the distance and landing requirements. In addition, competitors must make telemark turns around every gate. Feet must be at least a boot length apart during the turn, and turn transitions must be one continuous sweeping motion — no pauses or bobbles between turns. The balance between style, skill and speed is a fine one, as time matters little if you're form sucks.

Tomorrow's line up includes two full-on classics which will for sure max out racers (one is rescheduled from earlier this year). Stay tuned for the fun.

[Click for Official Giant Slalom Results](#)  
[Master's Results](#)

— *Michelle Quigley, Mountain Zone Staff*

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THE MOUNTAIN ZONE



Great  
American  
Telemark  
Festival

March 20-29

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**Mountain Zone**  
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## World Cup Telemark Skiing

**Sprint Classic**  
**Park City, Utah**  
**Saturday, March 28, 1998**



Bjarne Rickardson  
(SWE)

Marcel Waser (SUI) finished ahead of teammate Patrik Leopold by .26 today, decidedly snagging the men's overall by a narrow margin. Going into this season's final sprint classic, Waser had been second behind Leopold by a mere four points.

Bjarne Rickardson (SWE) finished 1st, 2.67 ahead of second place finisher Chris Rice (USA). This was Rice's 5th top-5 finish out of six World Cup races this week. Waser finished 3rd and Leopold 4th.



Grete Flemmen (NOR)  
6th

Marina Branger from Switzerland took 1st for the women. Leslie Beck (GBR) beat her own record from Thursday (3rd place in classic sprint) by making this 2nd place finish the best yet for Great Britain. Andrea Walker (SUI) finished third, .13 behind Beck. Hege Johansson, a lift operator in her native Norway, won the women's overall title in spite of coming in 9th in this race.

This sprint classic was the first ever dual format in World Cup telemark racing. Though much was at stake for the competitors in this final race of the season, there was much fun to be had in spite of challenging conditions today. It dumped light Utah powder (though discriminating locals boasted of lighter fluff) during most of the race and at times visibility was minimal. However, the course did stay nice and cold.

"The existing snow on this sprint classic course froze up so all they had to do was clear it off to get to the ice, said Jim Ludlow, president of the US Telemark Skiing Association (USTSA), local Park City regular and racer, "whereas in the giant slalom and the classic, it became granular and started to break away so salt was applied to preserve the quality of the course."

The sprint classic is a shorter version of the classic, with giant slalom, jump, reipelykkja and a uphill sections to the finish line. The dual format made an exciting day for spectators. Racers



rounded the reipelykkjas (Norwegian for loop of rope) from the outside toward the center of the dual course — a few near misses and one collision with no casualties between former and current USTSA Presidents Scott McGee and Jim Ludlow added to the fun. Their skis scissored, but each managed to recover without falling as they headed uphill for the finish.

[Click for Official Sprint Classic Results.](#)

— *Michelle Quigley, Mountain Zone Staff*

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