



A sharp Whit.

JOHN BIRD

THE FIGHT FOR THE FREE-HEELED WORLD

U.S. and Norway face off at the international telemark championships



MATTHEW PETERSON

Whit Thurlow is the only guy left who can do it, the only American who can capture the world telemark championship on home turf—Aspen, Colorado. And true to form, it looks like he's going to pull it off. He comes through the bump field at full-tilt, his skating poles held low, his powerful frame eating up the rough terrain. He makes it look easy. Then there's the uphill. With long, sweeping strokes, he skates up the cat-track, arms and legs pumping in perfect synch, and then he surges up the steepest section of the course at the same lung-burning speed the young Norwegians have displayed all afternoon.

by Michel Beaudry