

Zeitschrift: The Swiss observer : the journal of the Federation of Swiss Societies in the UK

Herausgeber: Federation of Swiss Societies in the United Kingdom

Band: - (1962)

Heft: 1401

Rubrik: Sport

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questa volta, molto più severi dei precedenti, permettono di constatare che il patrimonio frutticolo cantonale comprende 464,061 alberi. Il censimento venne eseguito in 234 comuni sui 253 che compongono il Cantone; 19 vennero esonerati, trattandosi di comuni di alta montagna, dove la frutticoltura non può essere praticata o comunque non riveste un'importanza economica degna di rilievo.

NELLO SPORT TICINESE. — Nella finalissima di Coppa Svizzera per hockey su ghiaccio i discatori dell'Ambri-Piotta dovranno incontrare il Villars, molto probabilmente il 28 gennaio. Negli ultimi incontri i leventinesi hanno dovuto cedere le armi, prima a Neuchâtel, contro Young Sprinters (0-5), poi domenica, 7 gennaio, in casa propria contro il Viège (1-4); per quest'ultima gara alla pista della "Vallascia" erano presenti 5,000 spettatori. Nel calcio abbiamo da segnalare la spettacolosa prestazione dei "granata" bellinzonesi che nell'ultimo girone di Coppa Svizzera, alla vigilia di Natale, hanno clamorosamente battuto all'Allmend il Lucerna, per tre reti a zero. Siccome le altre due superstiti ticinesi, il Lugano ed il Chiasso, sono state ambedue battute nel "Doppelspiel" di Zurigo: Grasshoppers-Lugano 2-1; Young Fellows-Chiasso 3-0, l'A.C. Bellinzona rimane l'ultima speranza ticinese negli ottavi di finale, il 14 gennaio, in cui dovrà far visita al Soletta.

PONCIONE DI VESPERO.

Sport

Training the young

Ski-ing is Switzerland's national sport. Yet many sports writers are becoming alarmed by the decline in competitive ski-ing in Switzerland. This country's once undisputed sovereignty over the snow has been lost to Austria, France, and even the United States.

Since the last Winter Olympics when Swiss hopes were encouraged by Roger Staub's winning a gold medal, the Swiss Ski Federation has made attempts to reform ski-ing by concentrating on training the young. It is too early to look for results at the coming World Championships in Chamonix, but most people feel that the new policy should bring dividends during the next Winter Olympics scheduled for 1964 at Innsbruck.

Highest Hopes

Switzerland's highest hopes, however, rest with Willy Forrer in the downhill, and Adolf Mathis in the slalom. Our women's team is weaker. But there is an outstanding individual on it — Lilo Michel, one of the best competitors in Europe.

The first international race of the current season was held at Val d'Isère in December. But the Austrians did not turn out for this meet. Still untried in international competition this season, it is no secret that they no longer possess the "Wonder Team" which they produced for the 1956 Olympics at Cortina.

Downhill Team

At Val Isère, it became evident that France possesses the strongest downhill team in ski-ing. Their record was remarkable. 120 skiers from 16 nations competed in the races, yet in the giant slalom all top seven places fell to Frenchmen. In the overall standing of the special slalom there were six Frenchmen in the first six places. And in the combined, eight men placed in the top 11.

Grand Prix

American hopes for Chamonix and the 1964 Olympics rest with Bud Werner of Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He won the Grand Prix de Savoie giant slalom event in Courchevel recently, which makes him a favourite.

After the early season races in the French Alps, the international ski-ing scene traditionally moves to Switzerland during the month of January. The International Women's Championships at Grindelwald have just ended. Wengen hosted the Lauberhorn Cup races, and St. Moritz was the site of the 30th Anglo-Swiss universities meet. The British Universities beat the Schweizer Akademischer Ski Club — the second time the British have beaten the Swiss.

The Brassus Nordic ski meet was held in the Swiss Jura. Thirteen countries were represented there. But only four centimetres of snow is making it difficult for the meet organisers. Artificial snow had to be laid on the ski jump, and trucks are bringing loads of it from the Col de Morchionz to cover the 15 kilometre cross-country course.

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