



SKI JUMPING



The ski jumps in Utah Olympic Park.

Origin

The history of ski jumping began in the XIXth century. The first known contest was held in Trysil (Norway) in 1862. Norwegian, Sondre Norheim, (known as the father of ski jumping) jumped in 1860 without poles over a rock and reached a length of 30 m. This record held over three decades. Around 1900 the Norwegian Bjarne Nielsen demonstrated the really first classical jumps with a length of 17 m. Using this same style, Norwegian Nils Gjestvang jumped 41 m in 1902. In Davos (Switzerland), American H. Smith set a new record of 45 m. After the First World War, two Norwegians Thulin Thams and Sigmund Ruud developed a new jumping style with the upper body bent at the hips and a wide forward lean with the arms extended in front. This aerodynamic technique succeeded and was named after the home of the inventors, Kongsberg ("Kongsberger Technique"). The sport continued to develop with the help of mathematicians and engineers, resulting in more perfectly designed, larger hills and on 15 March 1936, Austrian Sepp Bradl became the first ever to break the 100 metre mark with a jump of 101 m. In 1937, the first FIS Nordic World Championships were organised in Chamonix (France) with just one jumping event. In the mid-fifties, Swiss jumper Andreas Daescher developed yet a new jumping technique. He became the first jumper to hold the arms backwards close to the body with a more extreme forward lean. In 1962 at the FIS Nordic World Championship in Zakopane (Poland) a second event was added to the programme (large hill). In 1972 the first Ski-Flying World Championship was held in Planica (Slovenia), won by Swiss jumper Walter Steiner. In 1979/80 the

FIS organised the first World Cup season won by the Austrian Toni Innauer. In 1985, Swedish jumper Jan Boklov began spreading the tips of his skis into a "V" shape. Later, aerodynamic wind-tunnel tests proved that the "V" provided 28% more lift than the traditional parallel style. All ski jumpers started changing to this style en masse. By 1992, all the individual medal winners used the "V" style.

At the Olympic Games

Ski jumping is on the programme of the Olympic Winter Games since the first Games were organised in 1924 in Chamonix with one event (70 m). At the XII Olympic Winter Games in Innsbruck in 1964, the jumping event (90 m) was introduced for the first time. In 1988 in Calgary a team event (90 m) was added, followed by the team 120 m in Lillehammer in 1994.

Salt Lake City Olympic venue

At 7,130 ft (2,173 m). Utah Olympic Park's K90 and K120 are the highest-altitude world-class jumps in the world. The venue has a capacity of 20,500 spectators.



NORDIC COMBINED



Origin

By the mid-19th century, ski carnivals that included nordic combined events were being held in Norway. In 1892, the first Holmenkollen Ski Festival took place. A festival that is still held today and is still considered the world's premier Nordic skiing event. Nordic combined was the main attraction for the carnival, and it wasn't until 1933 that a separate ski jumping event was held. It was also in the early 1900's that the festival became international, when skiers from Sweden and other neighbouring countries participated in the event. The Nordic Combined is a very popular sport in a number of countries, such as Scandinavian

countries, Japan, Germany, Russia, France and Austria. The FIS runs regular World Cup events, and every second year the FIS Nordic World Ski Championships.

At the Olympic Games

The individual event is on the Olympic programme from the first Winter Games in 1924. The team event was added in 1988 in Calgary and the sprint event makes its debut at the Salt Lake City Games.

Salt Lake City Olympic venues

Two very different venues will come into play during the nordic combined competition. The ski jumping portion (individual jumping 90 m, team jumping 90 m) will be held at Utah Olympic Park. The cross-country portion of the event (15 km, 4 x 5 km relay) will be contested on the wide-open plain of Soldier Hollow.