

SNOWMOBILING



**NORTHERN AMERICA'S
FASTEST GROWING
WINTER SPORT**

by Mike Dec
Blueprint Staff writer

Snowmobiling is fast becoming one of America's fastest growing Winter pastimes. In years to come, snowmobiling may rival the Boating Industry in revenue.

Snowmobiles have come a long way since the early days of the industry, when inventors were first tinkering with windsleds and Motorized toboggans. The real inventor of the Snowmobile is hard to pinpoint. Several inventors worked on Snowmobiles, but probably none of them thought there inventions would turn out to be this big.

One of the few was Armand

Bombardier, whose first Snow Vehicle was a propeller driven sled. It made such a racket that his father made him junk the idea. It was not until the Middle 1950's that the invention of the light weight engine made it possible for the making of a light weight, two-passenger Snow Vehicle.

In 1959 Bombardier's life dream came true when he started producing the first light weight Snowmobile. His first snowmobile was called Ski-Dog but was hard for Canadians to pronounce so it was changed to Ski-Doo. Bombardier died in 1964, and never got to see how big his company is today.

About 1955 in Roseau, Minnesota Edgar Hetteen was also working on a Snowmobile. Hetteen's Snowmobile was propelled by an ice auger. But after a few years was replaced by a track. In 1962 the name, Hetteen Hoist and Derrick was changed to Polaris Industries, Inc. Both Polaris and Bombardier are leaders in the Snowmobile Industry.

This year there are approximately 60-65 snowmobile manufacturers. Boot Companies, such as Evinrude and Johnson are and Polaron and other lawn care manufactures are also manufacturing Snowmobiles.

In the United States, Minnesota dominates most of the industry and in Canada, Quebec dominates the industry. Minnesota manufacturers are expected to produce about 130-150,000 Snowmobiles for the 1969-70 season. Quebec is expected to produce 320,000 machines.

Some of the large manufacturers in Minnesota are Polaris Artic Cat, and Scorpion. The large manufacturers in Quebec are Bombardier, Moto-Ski, Sno-Jet, and Ski Route.

Swim team ready for District meet

by Mike Dec
Blueprint Staff writer

The season has been a good one for the Ramsey Swimmers. It appears that Ramsey will end up in third place in the Suburban conference behind Irondale and Mounds View.

Ramsey swimmers have improved in all events throughout the season. A few records have fallen to the Ramsey Swimmers. In the Individual Medley and the butterfly Co-Captain Duncom Kirkwood presently holds the school record.

Mark Baden the other Co-Captain holds the record in the back stroke event. In the 400 yard free style relay the team of Kirkwood, Kuhl, French, and Fletcher hold the Conference Records.

Shira feels that Co-Captains Kirkwood and Baden have done a outstanding job in swimming and maintaining the spirit of the team.

Weak points on the team are at a minimum and are in the Fly and in diving. Strong points are in the two relays, backstroke, 50 and 100 freestyle and the Individual Medley.

Post-season swimming

On Friday, February 20 the swimming preliminaries will be held at Hamline and the time is 6:00. Saturday, February 21 at 2:00 the Swimming and diving finals will be held at Hamline. Irondale, Mounds View, and Ramsey are favorites in these meets.

Friday, February 27 the State swimming preliminaries will be

held at Cooke Hall on the U of M Campus and is at 6:00. The State Swimming finals will be held on Saturday, February 28 at 6:00.

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P. J. Prognosticates

by Paul Johnson
Blueprint Sports Editor

The anatomy of a winner

RAMSEY PUCKSTERS

It's Hockey Tournament time once again, the ultimate content on high school hockey. That's where the best meet the best; presumably. But since upsets are not uncommon in the Region and State tournaments, it would be more correct to say it is where the most consistent of the better teams meet the most consistent of the better teams.

The deadline for this story was set before Ramsey's clash with Kellogg (or possibly Irondale) on Thursday, Feb. 19. I am assuming Ramsey beat Kellogg.

What is a good team?

First of all, what makes a better team?

Excellent skating, good stick handling, good moves, good passing and lots of hustle. More important though, are good teamwork and desire to win. Desire controls effort and effort wins games.

The Rams are a better team

The Rams of Ramsey certainly have all the individual skills necessary to win. Three good offensive lines, good defensive play and two fine goalies.

The offensive line of Pat Phippen, Dave Kath, and Mike Phippen have contributed most of the goals toward the Rams victorious 13-6-1 season. A close second in scoring goes to the line of Craig Arvidson, Mark Eagles, and Bob Grazinger. The line of Steve Short, Jon Kelsey, and Mike Garcia, while not as statistically impressive as the other two, contributes in the next best way: good puck control, and have even come through in the clutch for a goal. Kelsey was the only puckster to beat South St. Paul's notorious goalie, Mark Kronholm, to put the Rams into a 1-0 lead with less than eight minutes to play in the game.

Good defense

Senational defensive play has been a major factor in Ramsey success this season. Headed by Tim Anderson, the other defenemen are Steve Curley, Carl Brandt, Dale Wessel, Mark Czaja.

The defeneman is often the most ignored and underrated player in the game. That is, unless he's an Orr or a Boucha. For the most part, they do not score the goals, and if the team gets a shutout against another team, often the goalie is given all the credit.

Good goalies

Speaking of goalies, Ramsey has two good ones, Ward "Maniaco" Morgan and Doug Madole. The goalie has a unique position. After a game the goalie is either the hero or the goat. Fortunately, Morgan and Madole have been heroes throughout most of the season. And rightfully so. Each have played their own great games, and in a game when one starts getting beat, the other can come in to do a great job.

The classic example of this was in the week when the Rams played Kellogg and Mounds View. Thursday night, against Kellogg, Morgan let in two goals early in the game and Madole was sent in to replace him. Madole did an excellent job as Ramsey went on to win 5-3.

Saturday night, Madole got the starting job against tough Mounds View. Ramsey went ahead early in the game, but when Mounds View cracked Madole for three goals game and held the Mustangs while Eagles broke Mounds View's Don Shuett for a goal to win the game 4-3.

The talent is all there. But like I said before, talent isn't enough. It takes teamwork and 100% effort.

The astounding conclusion

Being the optimist that I am and having faith in a good thing, I figure the Rams to have a great shot at winning Region II and getting a berth in the State Tournament.

So, sports fans, go out and watch your local hockey team give Region II a run for it's money. If you can't find it one of most exciting sports there are, either you aren't looking hard enough or hockey just isn't your meat.