



SKI JUMP FOR SUMMER —
Here is a ski jump at Munising, Mich., designed for use by summer enthusiasts. Left is wooden slide. At right, promoter

Dan Harbick examines a specially processed African weed. Attached to slide, it can be used 2 years before replacing. (AP Wirephoto)

Weeds, Not Snow, to Coat Ski Jump at Munising

MUNISING, June 28 (AP) — Ski jumping in the summer — without snow?

That's right. They've been doing it in Europe for some time and soon they will be doing it in Michigan.

Summer ski jumping will get under way at Munising in upper Michigan on Lake Superior.

What is believed to be the first summer ski jump in North America will be opened at Munising's Forest Hill winter ski resort. Plans also are reported progressing for a Labor Day opening of a similar ski jump near Pontiac in southern Michigan.

The summer ski jump here will be due to the efforts of John Hink and ski promoter Dan Harbick.

Harbick, who has participated in a summer ski jump in Germany, says the Munising ski jump will be similar to the European jumps except plastic fiber will not be used. The Munising jump will be lined with a substitute African weed which is being processed in this country.

This weed is described as just as good for skiing but it will not last as long as the plastic material. The plastic usually lasts for five seasons. The weed is good for two seasons.

The Munising summer jump will take jumps up to 40 meters — more than 120 feet.

Summer skiing has been a sport in Europe since 1952. Practically all of the top ski jumping champions from Europe in the recent winter Olympics at Squaw Valley, Cal., had a minimum of two summers of ski jumping practice compared to none for the North American entrants.

Summer jumping was started by the Russians and was taken up by Germany and the Scandinavian countries. The European summer jumps range from 40 to 60 meters (120 to 180 feet). The ski ramp and landings are lined with a plastic fiber overlapping like shingles on a roof. Proper waxing of the skis gives a rider as fast a jump as under winter conditions.

A major summer ski meet has been scheduled for July 3 at Munising with the most prominent senior ski jumpers in the midwest expected to compete.

The four top United States jumpers in the winter Olympics are scheduled to jump at this meet.

Perhaps summer ski meets are the answer for a better U. S. showing in Olympic competition.