

Winter Sports Area Will Accommodate One-third More Snow Fans This Year

Ralph Nuttall, President of the East Michigan Winter Sports Council, representing fourteen communities interested in winter sports, announced that the winter sports area represented by the council will accommodate an estimated 1/3 more snow fans than last year, which drew an estimated attendance of 240,000. He also stated that there are several new and enlarged facilities, particularly in skiing, plus a complete catalog of winter festivals and carnivals.

For example, one of the brand new ski developments is at Pioneer Hill Sports Park, three miles from Roscommon on Higgins Lake. A new club house, log construction, will have 6 rooms, including a ballroom, restaurant and lounges. The park is located at the top of a series of hills and covers 150 acres overlooking Higgins Lake. This year they will have a 1,000 ft. ski tow and toboggan slide in operation, plus a number of ski runs and expect to have a full time professional instructor.

Alpena will have their traditional wild-cat hunt, sponsored by the Alpena Sportsmen's Club on January 10 and 11. As a new feature on January 17 and 18 the Junior Chamber of Commerce will promote an ice fishing perch festival, climaxed with a festival dance on January 17 and the selection of a Queen. The balance of the week will consist of local skating contests and on the 24th and 25th of January one of the big winter sports events is coming to Alpena when the North American Speed Skating Championship will be held there, sponsored by the A. S. U. and the Michigan Skating Association. During the last two week-ends of January, inter-scholastic skating events will be held. Alpena is planning on a new ski area with a new ski tow near Lachine, a few miles west of the town.

West Branch, this year, has enlarged their skiing facilities considerably at the Ogemaw Hills Ski Park with two ski tows, skiing areas for beginners, intermediate and advanced skiers and a slalom course. They hope to have one of the finest ski areas in Michigan. In addition, a new enlarged skating rink is under construction and will be ready in time for public use, plus bobcat hunts scheduled later in the winter.