

Ski Missouri

Unbeknownst to many, Missouri's first true ski resort opened a couple weeks ago about 90 miles up the road.

It's no Vail, but Rainbow Basin Ski Area, located just southwest of Kirksville, promises to offer as nice a skiing facility as you could hope to find in the Midwest.

Heretofore, Missouri's only ski area was a converted driving range at the famous Lake of the Ozarks resort, Tan-Tar-A.

Although recent warm weather has all but ruined Rainbow Basin's debut, operators Jeff Turner and Mike Mars don't seem the

least bit worried.

By next fall, Turner predicts, the \$750,000 investment should be well prepared to handle skiers from a wide area of Missouri, Illinois and Iowa.

"Our market extends about 150 miles," says Turner, controller of Rainbow Basin Inc., the facility's owner. "We're the closest ski area to St. Louis, Kansas City and Des Moines."

Not having been there, it's difficult to vouch for Rainbow Basin's attributes. But members of the Columbia Ski Club, a group that regularly hits the big slopes out West, insist the place isn't half bad.