

Cold Wave Aids Local Skiing

By GARY SEACREST

Nebraskans may be complaining about the recent cold wave, but the frigid weather is a boon to at least one activity—skiing.

Devils Nest, Nebraska's only ski area, opened last Saturday with the help of the cold weather. And the operators of Crescent Ski Hills in Crescent, Ia., will try to open this weekend.

Skiing in Nebraska was inaugurated last February when the million-dollar Devils Nest project, located in northeast Nebraska near Crofton, opened its 12 runs.

SPORTS

This year a new dimension, night skiing, has been added to Devils Nest with the area investing \$67,000 to light up the slopes. Night skiing is available only on Friday and Saturday nights.

Devils Nest officials reported that they had 5-6 inches of artificial snow on the slopes Thursday and are adding more daily with the help of 30 snow-making machines.

Jennifer Bockholt, a Devils

Nest official, reported that the area's first weekend of skiing was successful and noted that more than 300 skiers took to the slopes Sunday. She said the area's double-chair lift, poma lift, ski rental shop and ski school are all in operation.

Devils Nest will operate five days a week, Wednesday through Sunday, this season. Hours of operation are: Wednesday and Thursday, 12 noon to 4 p.m.; Friday and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 10 p.m.; and Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

While the Devils Nest

operation is running smoothly, Crescent Hills has had nothing but problems.

Despite "the best winter in 15 years," the ski area north of Council Bluffs is about a month late in opening, according to Paul Nyholm, a co-owner of the area. Problems with weeds on the slopes as well as electrical failures with snow-making machines and a poma lift have delayed the opening.

Crescent Hills officials started making snow Tuesday night and hope to have the area open this weekend.