

Biggest Year Ever Eyed In Ohio Winter Sports Fever Brewing

By James Robey
Journal Herald Staff Writer

Skiing enthusiasts are looking forward to the biggest year ever for winter sports in the Buckeye State.

Optimism is based partly on the growing number of persons taking up the sport and partly on the hope mother nature will be more generous with snow than she has been the last couple of years. If not snow, at least some good snow-making weather.

One aspect of the ski outlook indicates a tapering off of the Ohio boom however. The number of resorts to beckon the winter sports followers has not grown much in the last two years.

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STILL, 11 SKI resorts have reported they will be operating this year and that's 11 more than a decade ago when the ski fever first hit Ohio.

The list includes Sugar Creek Ski Hills at 1751 Washington Mill road, Bellbrook. Sugar Creek is a favorite place with Dayton ski buffs because it is close enough for outings in the evening as well as on weekends.

"We hope to be open by Dec. 1," said Bill Staley, Day-



Journal Herald Photo

Winter Fun At Clear Fork Ski Resort

... Not too far away for Dayton's skiers

ton skier who is part owner of the business.

Staley, one of the few certified ski instructors in the state, recently purchased a half-interest in the Sugar Creek layout.

The resort has a lodge, rental equipment, snow-making equipment, 1,000-foot lighted

slope, two rope tows and a new Poma lift.

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A POMA LIFT, Staley explained, is the kind with a platter skiers sit on while they are carried to the top of the slope.

Last year, Sugar Creek had 60 days of skiing. That was not up to standard for a season that is supposed to run from December to mid-March.

"If November brings some big snows and cold weather to go with it, we won't wait until December to open," Staley said.

Most other ski resorts in Ohio also are aiming for a December-first opening. But, like Sugar Creek, they would welcome an excuse to open before then.

Newest ski resort in Ohio is one that will have to have real snow to attract skiers. High Hopes Ski Area in Carroll county, less than a mile northeast of Harlem Springs does not plan to use artificial snow-makers.

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NONETHELESS, HIGH Hopes owner Edgar Snode of Mechanicstown insists he has the "most exciting small ski area in Ohio."

The High Hopes layout has a 900-foot slope with a 200-

foot drop, one rope tow, night skiing and rental equipment.

Valley High near Bellefontaine, site of last year's state ski races, is sprucing up for the snow season and again may promote its popular layout as having Ohio's highest, steepest, longest and largest ski slope. There are some easy hills for the beginner, too.

The big two ski spots near Mansfield, Snow Trails and Clear Fork, are putting finishing touches on lodge and areas prior to opening in late November or early December.

Snow Trails, five miles south of Mansfield, will have lodge, lifts and slopes for all comers, including a long 2,200-foot Alpine Trail.

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CLEAR FORK, 15 miles southeast of Mansfield at Butler, also advertises the "highest, broadest slopes in Ohio" and claims "a series of heights and ravines provide a variety of slopes and trails unique in the Midwest."

Also hoping to attract the Dayton ski enthusiasts this winter are Snow-Bowl near Cadiz and four resorts in northeast Ohio near Cleveland. They are Brandywine, Boston Mills, Mont Chalet and Alpine Valley.

The latter is not to be confused with Alpine Ski Resort south of Dayton near Morrow. Alpine at Morrow has an attractive lodge and an interesting slope, but the ski business has been an on and off operation.

There has been no report from the Morrow resort on the status of operation this year.

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Bubbly Chicken Pot Pie Extra Good For Dinner On Chilly Winter Day

By Clara Weisenborn
Cold winter weather calls for good substantial food.

are tender in the broth, giving a complete meal in one.

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use in soups, stews or fruit dishes.

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