Brought Canada Top Ski Honours

Lucile Wins Marsh Trophy

By JOHN MACDONALD

It was 44 years ago and a long way from here that freckle-faced Lucile Wheeler stood Canadian sports world on its ears by doing something no Canadian ever did before—winning two world ski championships in Austria.

The stunning accomplishment of this little 24-year-old girl from St. Jovite, Quebec, has passed the test of time so well that Lucile has swept the major awards this country can honor an athlete. The latest and brightest of the honours heaped on Lucile is the Lou Marsh Memorial trophy, which is presented annually to "the outstanding Canadian sports competitor."

The five-man board of judges, today announced the 1958 award of the famed trophy, in memory of the former sports editor of The Toronto Star, to Miss Wheeler as this country's top athlete of last year. She is the first skier to win the honour.

The board consists of Charles E. Ring, who donated the trophy in 1936; Donald G. Ross, former president of the Toronto baseball club; Charles Higginbottom, official; Harry "Red" Foster, former star in amateur hockey and football; chairman Oscar Pearson, Toronto recreational consultant.

A sports achievement in the early months of the year has a tough time catching the judges' attention against more recent happenings. But Lucile's double win in Bad Gastein, Austria, of the world slalom and downhill ski championships in February, 1958, was so memorable the judges were in agreement she upheld the high ideals of the award.

The winning of the Marsh trophy gives Lucile a clean sweep—it is the third time she has been selected as the "outstanding Canadian sports personality."

The only woman to win this award was Miss Canada in 1958, and in the annual year-end sports poll conducted by the Canadian Press.

Whether or not Lucile will put her racing skin on again to repeat her wins of the Marsh trophy and other honors is doubtful. Sometimes she says she is going to retire from the ski scene, broke the string by winning in 1946. There were no awards from 1942 to '44. In '41, North American sculling champion Theo Dubois was the winner. Marathon winner Gerald Cole was named in 1940. Swimmer sensation Bob Prie was selected in 1939. Diamond Sculls winner Bobby Peare took the honours in 38. Horseman Lieut. W. Marshall Cleland was chosen for the trophy in 1938, while Olympic runner Dr. Phil Edwards was the winner in the first presentation in 1936.