

Brought Canada Top Ski Honours

Lucile Wins Marsh Trophy

By JOHN MACDONALD

It was 14 months ago and a long way from here that freckle-faced Lucile Wheeler stood Canada's sports world on its ear by doing something no Canadian ever did before — winning two world ski championships in Austria.

The stunning accomplishment of this lithe 24-year-old girl from Ste. 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 base-

ball club; Charles Higginbottom, well-known amateur sports official; Harry "Red" Foster, former star in amateur hockey and football; and 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 Lucille'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 could even be called the triple crown—of Canadian sports honors. She was selected as outstanding woman athlete in Canada in 1958 by the Amateur Athletic Union of Canada and in the annual year-end sports poll conducted by the Canadian Press.

Whether or not Lucile will put her racing skis on again to repeat her wins of the Marsh trophy and other honors is doubtful. Sometimes she says

she is going to retire from racing to lead a normal life—no more long hours of arduous training. And then again, she talks about the unforgettable thrill of winning a race. Only next winter will tell if Lucile will be racing again.

Lucile's selection was no run-away. She was closely shadowed by Toronto's famed skating pair, world champions Barbara Wagner and Bob Paul. The board of judges spent many hours discussing the merits of the Wagner-Paul and Wheeler nominations, with the skaters finishing second. It was the closest finish between two nominees in the 23-year history of the Marsh trophy competition.

Others nominated were curler Matt Baldwin, who skipped three Brier winners; Maritime boxer Yvon Durelle; footballers Russ Jackson of Ottawa, Ron Howell of Hamilton and Gerry James of Winnipeg; jockey Johnny Longden; Whitby Dunlop world hockey ace Charlie Burns; golfers Al Balding and Stan Leonard.

Lucile joins a line-up of Marsh trophy winners which reads like a list of Who's Who in Canadian sports history. The 1967 winner was Maurice "The Rocket" Richard as he scored more goals than anyone else in NHL history. In 1956, it was golf queen Marlene Stewart for the second time. Beth Whittal took the award in '55 for her

Pan-American Games swimming accomplishments. Marilyn Bell was the '54 winner for swimming Lake Ontario.

Weightlifter Dough Hepburn of Vancouver won the 1953 award. Trap shooter George Genereux of Saskatoon won it in 1952. Marlene Stewart won it for the first time in '51. In 1950, it was speedster Bob McFarlane of the University of Western Ontario. Cliff Lumsden splashed his way to the 1949 award. Barbara Ann Scott dominated the Marsh trophy scene in 1948, '47 and '45 for her numerous skating achieve-

ments. Joe Krol, of Argo football fame, 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 Cote was named in 1940. Swimming sensation Bob Pirie was selected in 1939. Diamond Sculls winner Bobby Pearce 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.



--Photo by Malak

LUCILE WHEELER WITH SOME OF HER TROPHIES