

Red Wings are too good for their own good

What has happened to the Detroit Red Wings this year? Last season's National Hockey League powerhouse has been reduced to mediocrity on ice this year, and I can't figure out why. The obvious answer is that they just aren't playing that well. Sure, you can say that, but why?

Last year the Red Wings did the unbelievable by winning 62 games in a single season. That was the hockey equivalent of

OPINION



Ryan Halvorsen

the Bulls' 72 victories in the National Basketball Association. But in the end they didn't even make it to the Stanley Cup final, falling to Colorado in the Western Conference Championship.

In the off season, Detroit made a huge trade, dealing off veterans Paul Coffey and Keith Primeau to the Hartford Whalers for the up-and-coming all-star Brendan Shanahan and a minor leaguer to improve the already rock-solid team. One other major player in last year's dream season, Dino Ciccarelli, is no longer in Detroit, but the Wings didn't deal for him.

At first I was very disappointed, being a Red Wings fan and all, to have my team lose two of their most solid players over the last few seasons, but everything has worked out well so far. Shanahan has six goals and four assists in 10 games while Primeau and Coffey only have combined for three goals so far this year. Surely Primeau and Coffey couldn't be too happy after being dealt to a gutter team after long stints on a Stanley Cup contender.

So why are the Red Wings not doing well? The only theory that I can think of is that there are too many stars on the team, and when it comes down to crunch time, there are too many people trying to take things into their own hands. Last year Coffey and Primeau could have been called the team leaders, but they didn't come through for the team when it counted the most. Maybe that's why they're gone now.

So who's going to pick up the slack? There is a long list to choose from that is star studded. There is the red army of Sergei Federov, Viacheslav Fetisov, Vyacheslav Kozlov and Vladimir Konstantinov. All were stars for Russia at one time, and Federov and Fetisov have proven to be two of the best in the NHL. There are

Turn to **HALVORSEN**, Page 6

OREGON OUTDOORS



COURTESY PHOTO

Telemark skiing can be an enjoyable way to see areas of nature that are normally difficult to get to.

Winter Freedom

Telemark skiing offers downhill skiers an alternative opportunity

By Rob Moseley
Freelance Sports Reporter

The University's Outdoor Program will host a seminar on Nov. 12 entitled, "Introduction to Telemark Skiing." This is a free event beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Telemark skiing was developed by Sondre Nordheim in Norway in the 1850s, and was used extensively by Norwegian mountain soldiers. Migrating Norwegians popularized the sport in the United States. Nordheim revolutionized skiing by lashing a binding around his heel, thus strapping the ski to his foot. This allowed for the style skiing done today, whereas skiers perform turns such as the stem and the Christiana, named for the Norwegian capital (now Oslo).

Nordheim also developed the parallel turn, which

allowed for slalom competition. His development set the stage for the sport of ski jumping, in which Nordheim became the first competitor. He gained fame in 1868 when he attended a ski show in Christiana and performed a jump of 18 meters.

Nordheim moved to North Dakota in 1883 and brought his new methodologies with him. He died 14 years later, but his techniques live on in the form of Olympic competition, in which slalom, mogul and ski jumping events are contested.

Telemark itself involves skiing without a heel strap. It's used extensively by downhill skiers, as telemarking doesn't allow a great amount of turning ability. Local telemarkers note Mount Hood as a great area to get started in the sport.

To learn more about telemark skiing, or if you're just looking to "free the heel, free the mind", check the Outdoor Program's seminar next Tuesday in Room 37 of the EMU.

SEMINAR

- **WHAT:** Telemark Skiing seminar
- **WHERE:** Room 37 of the EMU
- **WHEN:** Nov. 12 at 7:30 p.m.
- **WHO:** UO Outdoor Program
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