

It's tricky, and you must keep your eye peeled for hidden rocks and whirlpools.



Contestants get their equipment ready. "Skis" are made of aluminum, sailcloth, or pontoons buoyed by inflated plastic.



"Whoops-a-daisy!" He heads toward shore after good dunking in the swift waters.



Ski-Yaking on the Salza

Photos: Hilly from Monkmeyer



SKI-YAKING seems to be the sort of rugged competition in which the man who remains standing becomes the winner. At least that's the way it looks here at the annual championships near Werfen on Austria's Salza River. Experts, too, are those who know the whims—the tricky cross currents, whirlpools, and hidden rocks—of the rapid mountain stream. When the racers get going, they can speed up to 17½ mph on their kayak-like pontoon skis.

◀ Ski-yaking racers often attain speeds up to 17½ mph when they head down the stretch in swirling currents.