

Nancie Rideout:

A QUEEN ON WATER-SKIS

By BOB DRISCOLL

Freckle-faced and 22, she reigns over one of the world's fastest-growing sports

"JUST ONCE, DADDY?" With those words, freckle-faced Nancie Rideout launched herself into one of the world's fastest-growing sports, a fun-and-thrills competition in which she's become an international queen—and a FAMILY WEEKLY cover girl, too.

Her father, Herschel Rideout of Lakeland, Fla., bought an outboard motorboat nine years ago to get in some fishing. As a bonus, the salesman threw in a pair of water-skis.

"As soon as the boat was in the water," Nancie recalls, "I saw those skis and wanted to try them. My sister Shirley and I cornered Daddy and asked him to take us skiing 'just once.' He gave up fishing that day for us—and I guess he's never gotten back to it."

Shirley became a professional water-skier before retiring to raise her two children. Nancie, now 22 and a queen in looks as well as skills, followed in her wake in a style that made water-skiing history.

At 20, she won the U.S. National Water-Skiing Championship, then went on to Milan, Italy, to make her title an international one in the World Tournament last year. To top this off, she also

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Most expert water-skiers are satisfied to do their tricks on skis. Nancie Rideout is one of five women who make it look easy barefoot.



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