

ZAMBONI® NEWSLETTER



THE ICE RINKS OF JAPAN ... THEY'RE ABSOLUTELY SPECTACULAR!



It looks like a painted stage backdrop, but it's the famous Mt. Fuji which overlooks the Fujikyu Highland recreation complex with its five busy ice rinks. Three Zamboni® machines can be seen in operation on the Promenade Rink in the foreground.

There's no doubt about it, our Japanese friends work hard and play hard. And they love ice skating so much that the rinks all over the island country are always crowded with happy skaters.

All of us in the United States remember the fine television coverage of the XI Olympic Winter Games at Sapporo, Japan. The pictures beamed here by satellite during the meets went one important step beyond the individual competitions; they showed the keen

interest of the Japanese people for sports in general and winter sports in particular.

Certainly, the Japanese went to great lengths to provide unsurpassed facilities for the Olympic teams from all over the world. The accompanying pictures show that they have built some of the most unusual and spectacular ice rinks to be seen anywhere. Some of them can be called rinks in the style and size of a Disneyland.

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A
Note
from
Frank . . .

Our previous Newsletter issue presented articles on the growth of ice skating in the United States, as well as information on several ice rinks in Europe.

It has been my pleasure to have had an opportunity to travel to many countries and to witness personally the spread of interest in ice skating and the increasing development of ice rink facilities.

The Olympic Winter Games have no doubt played an important part in this rise of interest in ice sports, and all of us at Zamboni were pleased to have played a part in the Olympics operation in Sapporo, Japan.

As at Squaw Valley in California and at Innsbruck, Austria, the grooming of the ice rink surfaces was performed flawlessly by Zamboni® Ice Resurfacers.

Our representative in Japan, the Patine Corporation, operated eight Zamboni® machines at Sapporo and received many compliments on the quality of the ice and the speed with which they accomplished the resurfacing jobs.

The feature article in this Newsletter provides a glimpse of the exciting ice skating industry in Japan, and again shows that skating growth is a universal phenomenon.

We hope you will enjoy it.

Frank

THE 1,500th ZAMBONI® COMPLETED

Fifteen hundred Zamboni® ice resurfacers are a lot of machines, you'll agree. We reached that milestone in October, 1972, with the completion of Number 1,500 at our Paramount, California, plant.

The Model HDB's new owners are Pat Stapleton and Dick Glassford, who recently opened their second rink in the Chicago area at Carol Stream, Illinois.

Pat, the stellar defenseman of the Blackhawks, accepted the keys to No. "1500" from Frank Zamboni during one of the Blackhawks' trips to Southern California.

Reports coming from the Carol Stream Rink facility tell us that both the new Ice Arena and the Zamboni® Number 1,500 are doing very well.



That's Pat Stapleton, left, of the Chicago Blackhawks, happily taking the keys to the 1,500th Zamboni® machine from Frank Zamboni. Pat got the Model HDB Zamboni® for the new Ice Arena at Carol Stream, Illinois, which he operates with his partner, Dick Glassford.

THE ICE RINKS OF JAPAN .. (Continued from P. 1)

It is very surprising to learn that the development of artificial ice rinks in Japan dates only from 1950, yet by now the number of indoor and outdoor rinks exceeds 250, and many of them incorporate several different-purpose rinks on the one site, in that way luring not only families with children but also appealing to those who love speed and figure workouts.

ONE OF THE LARGEST

One of the largest recreation centers in Japan is the huge complex called the Fujikyu Highland. Only two hours away from Tokyo, this is both a summer and a winter playground, with quite a few touches of Disneyland here and there, although the great Mt. Fuji which rears its snow-capped head on the horizon is the real thing, you can be sure.

THE ICE RINKS OF JAPAN .. (Continued from P. 2)

Fujikyu Highland is owned and operated by the Fuji Kyuko (Express Railway) Company. That the owner, in this case, is a railroad is not unusual in Japan. Most private railway companies there own and operate various kinds of recreation facilities along their lines and conduct special excursions in special trains to those centers, often on a package basis charging all-inclusive rates of travel and admission to the recreation facility.

Let's take a closer look at this particular recreation center, and then we'll tell you about a few others in Japan.

The Fujikyu Highland (which, very loosely interpreted, means to Fuji . . . Rapidly) reports an average gate of 30,000 to 40,000 people per holiday (and they celebrate just about everything in Japan as a holiday); and 5,000 to 10,000 each weekday.

Most operators of ice rinks in the United States would find such a head count of attendance astonishing, but it reflects the Japanese enjoyment of sport on ice. It's worth noting that the adult admission price for a 2 to 3 hour session is about \$1.30, a costly affair for the Japanese when it's realized that this charge is more than twice what it would be, on the average, in this country.

FIVE RINKS

Likewise astonishing is the sheer extent of all the facilities this one place has for winter sports fans.

They have five rinks of the following names and sizes:

- *The Junior Rink, 700 sq. meters (7500 sq. ft.)
- *The Rainbow Rink, 3,500 sq. meters (37,600 sq. ft.)
- *The Dynamic Rink, 7,300 sq. meters (78,400 sq. ft.)
- *The Speed Rink, 9,000 sq. meters (97,000 sq. ft.)
- *The Promenade Rink, 6,000 sq. meters (64,500 sq. ft.)



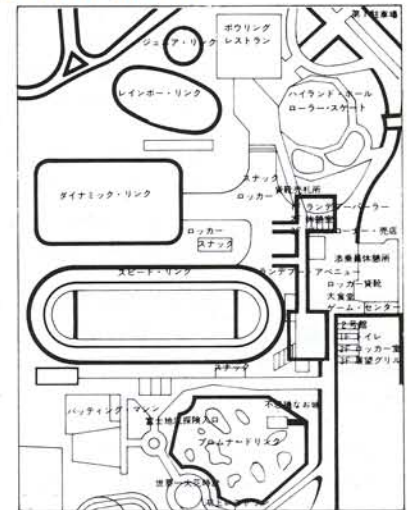
The oval Speed Rink (lower) and the pretzel-like Promenade Rink are part of the skating rink variety at Fujikyu Highland in Japan.



Picture of Fujikyu Highland's Dynamic Rink with Rainbow and Junior Rinks in background shows abundance of skaters. Note Zamboni machine in readiness at fence on lower left.

Diagram of rinks at Fujikyu Highland:

- JUNIOR
- RAINBOW
- DYNAMIC
- SPEED
- PROMENADE



The accompanying diagram shows their relative locations. The rinks add up to a total of 26,500 square meters, approximately 285,000 square feet of ice rink space! Or, looking at it another way, that's almost 17 hockey rinks with 85 by 200 foot ice surfaces!

Handling such a tremendous amount of skaters on that vast amount of ice in an efficient way every day requires what ice rink operators anywhere can well understand — a thoroughly comprehensive maintenance and ice resurfacing schedule.

To meet that requirement and to present perfect skating surfaces each day, the Fujikyu Highland uses five Zamboni® Ice Resurfacers. One is always held in readiness as a ready-to-go spare machine that can be called upon to finish a "clean sweep" that will assure completion of their resurfacing schedule on time.

OTHER UNUSUAL RINKS

Another unusual facility is the ice rink in the National Stadium in Tokyo.

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THE ICE RINKS OF JAPAN .. (Continued from P. 3)



A sweeping view of the National Stadium in Tokyo. Here used as an ice rink, the huge installation can be converted into a swimming pool for the hot Tokyo summertime.

This building was used as a swimming pool during the XVIII Olympiad in Tokyo and is still used as a pool during the summer months.

In winter, however, the entire place is converted into a very attractive rink, as the above picture shows, and the average attendance on holidays amounts to about 7,000 patrons per day.

Another rink which we think has a touch of the unusual about it is the M.B.S. Sportland in Osaka, Japan, owned and operated by the Mainichi Broadcasting System.

Again, this is a facility that is used as a swimming pool in summer and ice rink in winter months. They have one feature that has proved to be popular for the more experienced skaters seeking speed and thrills.

This is an ice slider, shown in the accompanying picture, located at one side of the ice rink. It provides a different approach to the enjoyment of ice skating for those who are sufficiently advanced, as many Japanese skaters are, to attempt skating on what amounts to a kind of ski run on skates. It certainly must offer plenty of thrills to shoot down a slide on skates!

Incidentally, the M.B.S. Sportland was built by our representative in Japan, the Patine Corporation. Mr. Kazuo Ohashi founded Patine in 1959 and has kept his firm in the forefront of the ice skating industry in Japan since that time.



The M.B.S. Sportland Rink in Osaka, Japan, is renowned for its speedy "Ice Slide" which is reached by the stairs (lower photo). Skaters reach bottom of slide in upper photo. Kids especially love the thrills.



Mr. Ohashi is a former Japanese figure skating champion and has represented his country at several international competitions.

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FRANK J. ZAMBONI & CO.

15714 Colorado Avenue, Paramount, California 90723 / (213) 633-0751 • Telex 67-3497

FRANK J. ZAMBONI & CO. LTD. • P.O. Box 275 Scott Avenue, Paris, Ontario, Canada (519) 442-2235 • Telex 021-81173