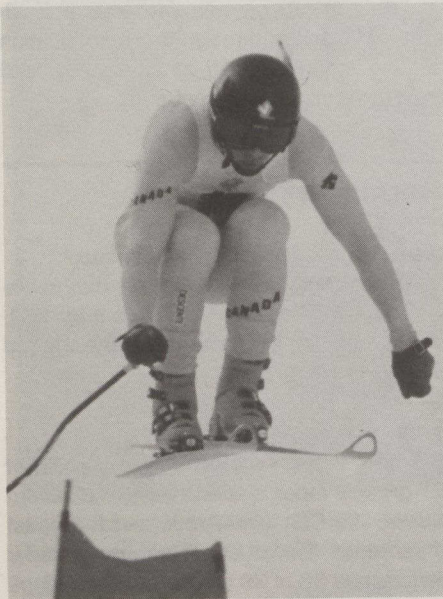


## World Cup skiers

Todd Brooker, 25, of Paris, Ontario won his third World Cup downhill skiing race at Hokkaido in Furano, Japan on March 2 in a time of 1:55.62. It was his first win in World Cup competition since 1983, when he won at Aspen, Colorado.

The race also represented the best combined Canadian result this season with every member of the team placing within the top 25 out of 57 competitors. Rookie Don Stevens, 28, of Rossland, British Columbia scored his first World Cup points with a fourteenth place finish in 1:59.32. Felix Belczyk of Castlegar, British Columbia, was twenty-second in 1:59.90 and Chris McIver of Rossland was twenty-third in 2:00.46.



Jim Merrithew

Todd Brooker won his third World Cup downhill ski race in Japan.

Todd Brooker's win ensured that Canada would win at least one World Cup downhill race for the eighth consecutive year. Steve Podborski of Toronto won the race at Garmisch, West Germany in February 1984.

In the World Cup super giant slalom race on March 3, Brian Stemmler of Aurora, Ontario placed third to win the bronze medal. The 18-year-old member of the national development squad, raced through the 2 030-metre Speiss course in one minute 31.64 seconds — 28 one-hundredths of a second behind co-winners Steven Lee of Australia and Daniel Mahrer of Switzerland. The only previous dead-heat finish in a World Cup event took place in 1978.

### Gold in women's downhill

Laurie Graham, 24, of Inglewood, Ontario, won the women's final World Cup downhill race held in Banff, Alberta on March 10.



Jim Merrithew

Laurie Graham turns and increases her speed as she descends in a women's downhill event.

She skied through cold and strong, gusting winds to complete the difficult 2 025-metre run in one minute, 19.50 seconds.

Laurie Graham and Karen Stemmler, Brian's sister, placed fourth and fifth respectively in the women's World Cup ski downhill at Vail, Colorado on March 2. In the women's giant slalom on March 3, Liisa Savijarvi of Bracebridge, Ontario, finished twenty-second. Karen Stemmler placed thirty-fifth, and Nancy Gee of Niagara Falls, Ontario was forty-first.

In Lahti, Finland, Steve Collins of Thunder Bay posted his second straight seventh-place finish in ski jumping competition at the Nordic Ski Games on March 3.

In the Lahti biathlon events, Lise Meloche of North Bay placed sixth in the ten-kilometre event and was fifth in the five-

kilometre competition. The Canadian trio of Marie-Andrée Masson of Victoriaville, Quebec, Jenny Walker of Ottawa and Carole Gibson of Camrose, Alberta, placed seventh in the 3x5-kilometre relay event.

Canadian skiers won a gold medal and two silvers in the North American biathlon championships held at Biwabik, Minnesota on March 14.

Gail Niinimaa, 29, of Calgary and 29-year-old Joan Skinstad of Camrose, Alberta, placed first and second in the senior women's ten-kilometre event. With four penalty minutes, Niinimaa took the gold in 49 minutes 17.4 seconds. Yvonne Visser of Calgary was fifth.

Geret Coyne of Calgary won Canada's other silver medal in the junior men's (continued on P. 8)



Tim O'Leary

Lloyd Langlois appears to be heading into the hill in one of his aerial manoeuvres.



Tim O'Leary

Meredith Gardner displays the form that won her the over-all women's aerial World Cup title.