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SKI RACERS THRILL OLYMPICS

10,000 feet up in the Swiss Alps - the skiing highlight of the Olympic Games - the Downhill Championship. Along a course unequalled in the world for sudden drops and danger laden turns, the nations' top skiers test their skill. For Poland's Jan Pawlics, it's his last trip on skis - both his legs are broken in a fall.

For one fall, there are nearly a hundred others who'll brave this run. From the Corviglia lift across the Great Schuss down to the Cresta Junction - that's the course - more than two miles in length and involving a drop of near 5,000 feet.

To sleep-watching crowds, the thrills turn up every 30 seconds - as each skier speeds by on his way down to the Valley.

In the Engadine forests, the snow is still firm despite days of spring-like weather, which at one time threatened the Games' outcome. On the heavy slopes, there are spills and near misses for all but the hardiest.

Last man away is Italy's Zeno Cole. His early fall is checked in time and Zeno careers on downhill.

Stickiest part of this Olympic endurance test comes below the Schuss - a sudden jump that leaves the crowds gasping.

At Cresta Junction, the first few are coming in. For the five British contestants, it has been a run in which their courage has been matched against the trained skill of other nations. Winner, in record time is France's ex-Maquis fighter Greiller.