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## On to Europe

Today Rody Jansen of Gronlid is skiing the hills of the Wapiti Ski facilities north of Melfort; tomorrow he will be enjoying downhill competition in Europe.

Rody is one of four Saskatchewan downhill skiers chosen to participate with Team Canada in the 1993 Special Olympics World Winter Games in Austria in March.

His parents, Anne and Henry Jansen, will be making the trip to Europe to watch Rody compete in his second International Special Olympics Games.

## Representing Saskatchewan Athletes

# Jansen to compete in Austria

by Carol Pollock  
of The Journal

A broad smile creases the face of 20-year-old Rody Jansen of Gronlid as he thinks about competing in an upcoming international skiing competition.

Rody will be one of ten Saskatchewan athletes representing Canada at the 1993 Special Olympics World Winter Games to be held in March in Austria.

Rody, who attends school at Melfort Collegiate, first became in-

involved in Special Olympics in 1979. He got his start in downhill skiing at the Wapiti Ski Hill, which opened just ten years ago.

This will be his second trip to International Special Olympics as a downhill skier. In 1989, Rody represented Canada at the Winter Games in Squaw Valley, California.

Team Canada is to have 104 athletes and 32 coaches attending the World Games at Salzberg and Shladming, Austria.

In all, there are to be 1600 athletes from forty countries competing in figure skating, speed skating, floor hockey, alpine skiing, and cross country skiing.

He has also skied in the Canadian National Special Olympics Games at Saskatoon and in New Brunswick and in several provincial Games.

Rody has been named Male Athlete of the Year for Saskatchewan Special Olympics on two occasions.

While Rody enjoys many sports including bowling, downhill skiing is his favourite. He enjoys being outdoors and he likes the spirit of Special Olympics competition. The speed involved in downhill skiing thrills him.

At the 1993 Saskatchewan Special Olympics Games just last weekend, Rody skied his way to two gold medals and one silver medal.

The upcoming trip to Europe is

extra special for the Jansen family as Rody's parents, Anne and Henry, are making the trip with Team Canada.

"We are pretty proud of Rody," said Anne, who never supposed she would ever have an opportunity to visit Europe.

"It was a surprise for sure," beams Anne.

Henry adds, "For a fellow from Gronlid and Melfort, when we just have that little (Wapiti) hill, Rody's done very well. He's competing with people that have ski facilities in the mountains and professional coaching, the best of everything. Rody competes well with these people."

Over the years, Rody has received coaching from Gregg Nilson and Mark Babcock at the Wapiti Ski Hill. At the present time, he hasn't got a fulltime coach.

His coach for the World Games will be Glen Allen of Manitoba.