

*Ama Dablam Winter Ascents.* Five expeditions climbed Ama Dablam by its normal southwest ridge in the last month of 1992. Five Swiss were under the leadership of Franco Dellatorre, who reached the summit alone on December 1. Five Belgians and a Swiss led by Alain Hubert completed the 113th ascent of the peak on December 3, when Belgians Hubert, Didier Goetghebuer, Swiss Jacques Richon and Mana Ram Tamang got to the top. The summit was reached by Japanese Hiroshi Aota on December 6, leader Yoshiki Sasahara and Toshio Ono on December 7 and Yasushi Yamanoi also on the 7th, but the latter had climbed to the southwest ridge via the west face. Seven South Koreans were led by Cha Jae-Woo. On December 7, Kim Wi-Yeoung with Sherpas Sonam Tschering and Ang Dawa climbed to the summit, followed on the 9th by Kee Su-Young. Another South Korean group of nine was under the leadership of Chun Byung-Tai. On December 7, Chun, Sim Jung-Shup, Kim Jin-Yong and Dawa Sherpa completed the ascent, followed on December 11 by Jeon Woo-Song, Jeong Duk-Ki, Shim Sung-Bo and again Dawa.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Lhotse South Face, More on Tomo Česen's 1990 Ascent.* When Scott Fischer and I returned to Kathmandu after climbing Lhotse in May 1990, we were interviewed by Liz Hawley and at that time we verified that Česen had reached the summit of Lhotse. As I recall, we were sure that he had been there based on his description of the summit area, which Liz related to us a few days after she had interviewed him. Among other things, he described seeing an old orange oxygen bottle on a small platform just below the summit, which is a small snow cone. He also told Liz that he had decided against climbing the last eight meters up onto this snow cone because he questioned its stability, evidence that besides being exceptionally skilled, this guy has some good sense. Fischer and I did climb gingerly to the top, but we had the (false) security of being roped together. The interesting thing is what we have been hearing since, about a disputed photo which Česen claims to have taken from the summit showing the view into the Western Cwm. The French, apparently, have claimed you cannot see the Western Cwm from the summit of Lhotse. One of the great regrets of my climbing career so far is that there was almost no visibility on our summit day. I had been excited about the prospect of checking out the feasibility of a traverse to Lhotse Middle from the summit. As it was, I never saw Lhotse Middle that day, but I did see, faintly, the rock summit on the opposite side of the couloir which we had exited left to reach the true summit. This point is only slightly lower than the true summit and I remember thinking it might block a good view into the Cwm. The confusion about this is unfortunate because, based on his description to Liz Hawley, I have no doubt that Česen, Fischer and I went to the same place in May of 1990, he, of course, by his remarkable solo ascent of the south face. I certainly hope it was the top of Lhotse!

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