

spirit. Both teams left the glacier earlier than planned. The return porters were contacted in Skardu to retrieve the gear from Base Camp and they did this with superhuman speed.

CHRIS HOWARTH, *unaffiliated*

*Laila Peak, North Face Attempt.* It was reported that a seven-member Italian expedition led by Oreste Forno failed in its attempt to make the first official ascent of Laila Peak (6096 meters). (*High Mountain Sports* 157)

*Baintha Brakk Ascent.* It was reported that Jean Annequin and Pascal Chataing, both of France, climbed this pillar (c. 6400 meters) in six days (July 1-6). The ascent involved some 30 pitches at up to 7a. (*High Mountain Sports* 157)

*Spantik Ascent and Attempt.* The French "Allibert" Karakoram expedition 1995 was successful in climbing Spantik (7027 meters) in the Rakaposhi Group. The expedition was led by the guide Bruno Douillet and approached the mountain from Chogolungma side and climbed it by the south ridge. Three camps were established. The top was reached on August 17 by K. Beladem, B. Douillet, B. Kirschleger and two high altitude porters, Ghulam Nabi and Ali Raza. A Swiss expedition led by Martin Stettler (June-July) was forced to retreat.

JÓZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik, Poland*

*Latok II Attempt, and Ascents of Ogre Thumb and Spaldang.* It was reported that a German expedition powered by the bold young climber Alexander Huber reached a height of 6600 meters on Latok 2 before turning back in the face of unsettled weather and a shortage of fuel. An injury to Jochan Haase prompted a call for the porters to end the trip, but before the hike out Huber with Hans Hocke managed a one-day ascent of the 1200-meter south face of the Ogre Thumb (5500 meters), climbing some 26 pitches at up to 5.11a/A0. After a day of rest Huber, Volker Benz, Karl Friedrich Spitzhof and Ruta Florschitz started up the east buttress of Spaldang (5590 meters), jümaring lines that had been fixed over three weeks (16 pitches, 5.9), and continued along an easy snow ridge to bivouac at 5100 meters. The next day, the team, minus Ruta who had decided not to continue, climbed to the summit, encountering climbing up to 5.12b. The route was 1000 meters and 35 pitches long. (*On The Edge* 57)