

*Kwangde Shar, North Face.* The French team of Samuel Beaughey, Christophe Profit, Andre Rhem and Jerome Ruby made an alpine-style ascent of the north face of Kwangde Shar (6093 m) from November 27-December 1. The 1300-meter, 38-pitch route, *Extra Blue Sky*, ascended the center of the face before joining the northeast ridge. The team encountered sections of rotten snow on rock, very thin and steep (up to 90°) ice, delicate mixed climbing and pure rock and ice pitches. They bivouacked three times on the wall (at 5400, 5600, and 5800 meters), then once more on the descent. (*From the team itinerary*)

*Lobuje East, West Pillar.* It was reported that Spaniards Manolo Miranda, Carlos Miguel and Eduard Sanchez followed a line to the left of one established in 1991 by American Eric Brand and Nepalese Norbu Sherpa on the lower half of the west pillar of Lobuje East (6119 m) to reach a prominent shoulder, where they established camp. They then moved to the right of the original route for most of the upper rock section. The upper ice arete, which is also shared by the original route, led directly to the summit and involved a pitch of 80 degrees. Altitude sickness inhibited Miranda early on, so only Miguel and Sanchez completed the route to the summit, which they reached on October 23, 1995. Of the 16 pitches of rock encountered, only one was aided; the rest went free at up to 6b+. (*High Mountain Sports* 167)

*Ama Dablam, Northwest Face, The Stane Belak-Strauf Memorial Route.* Vanja Furlan and Tomaz Humar climbed the central part of the northwest face of Ama Dablam (6828 m) in alpine style in April and May over two attempts. Their first attempt, which took place between April 21 and 25, was abandoned at 5700 meters because of bad weather. The second attempt started on April 30. The pair spent the first night on a serac at 5630 meters; a 300-meter rock barrier above it was the crux of the route. They climbed it in one and a half days, encountering ice between 70 and 90 degrees and two rock pitches (V+, A2+). The upper part was easier, but another two and half days were spent before they summited on May 4 at 4:45 p.m. They descended via the normal route and returned to Base Camp on May 5. The ascent was awarded the *Piolet d'Or* by Groupe Haute Montagne and Montagne magazine in December 1996.

Later in the summer, Vanja Furlan died after a long fall on a moderate route in Velika Mojstrovka in the Julian Alps. A full account of their climb appears earlier in this journal.

*Ama Dablam, North to South Traverse.* It was reported that a team of climbers summited Ama Dablam via the north ridge and descended along the southwest ridge. The north ridge had not seen a successful ascent in 13 years, but on October 19 Friedl Huber, Max Berger, Lois Badengruber and Roman Dirnbok summited after leaving Base Camp on the 15th. It was the goal of the party to climb with minimal equipment in alpine style. The descent down the southeast ridge took the party a further two days leaving no equipment behind. (*Klettern* 97)

*Ama Dablam, Various Ascents in the Post-Monsoon.* One-fourth of all the expeditions in Nepal in the post-monsoon season went to just one lovely 6812-meter peak in the Everest region, Mount Ama Dablam. Altogether 70 people from 14 of the season's 19 Ama Dablam teams reached its summit (three men even went to the top twice), sometimes struggling through waist-deep snow for over two and a half hours to gain 200 vertical meters (655 feet) to reach the top. This was not quite a record-breaking total number for Ama Dablam, but it was an impressive