

Broad Peak, Ascent and Tragedy. Three Korean climbers perished after scaling Broad Peak (8047 m) on July 20. The group leader, Hong Jung-Pyo (41), stated that two climbers, Han Dong-Keun (29) and Yang Jae-Mo (24), reached the main summit at 5:28 p.m. and left their teammate Lim Sun-Taik (24), who was experiencing chest pain, at the false summit. The two reached the main summit and were on their way down to help Lim who was coming down alone from the false summit (8036 m). The two met Lim on the ridge while Hong sent Lee Chi-Sang (32) and Yoon Kyung-In (25), who were on their way up, to help the ailing climber. The weather suddenly turned bad and the three climbers died.

The Korean group made Base Camp at 5000 meters, Camp I at 5600 meters, Camp II at 6300 meters, and Camp III at 7100 meters.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

Gasherbrum IV, East Face, Attempt. No protection and avalanches stopped a Korean expedition of the Seoul University Alpine Club at 7400 meters on August 11 on the east face of Gasherbrum IV (7925 m), which remains unclimbed. The expedition reached the highest point yet recorded on the face, a distinction previously held by Japanese solo climber Yasusi Yamanoi (7000 meters) in 1993. Two members, Kim Chang-Ho and Lim Saeng-Muk, reached 7400 meters, but the constant avalanche hazard made them retreat to safety.

The near-vertical east face offers nearly 1,500 meters of hard mixed climbing. This was the second Korean attempt on the peak. The team consisted of Lee Gye-Nam (29), Kim Chang-Ho (27), Park Young-Sik (35), Kim Yong-Ho (25), Kim Saeng-Muk (25), Kang Houn-Soo (20) and Kim Duck-Sun (20). LO was Capt. Raja Zubair Farooq.

The group made Base Camp at 5200 meters, Advance Base Camp at 6000 meters, and Camp I at 6850 meters. They used 1000 meters of fixed rope.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

Gasherbrum I, Ascent. Spaniards Txetxu Lete Bernardo, Koke Lasa Berasategui and Luis Miguel Lopez Soriano climbed the Japanese Couloir on the north face, summitting on July 16, 1995.

Gasherbrum I, Ascent and Tragedy. Spanish Climber Manuel Alvarez Diaz (38) perished after successfully scaling Gasherbrum I (8067 m) on July 17. According to sources, after reaching the summit on July 12 at 10:30 a.m., Diaz fell on the descent and injured his backbone, neck and one eye. He was unable to continue and was lowered by his partner to Camp III (7200 m) where they stayed for six days. Rescue was impossible due to avalanche hazard. After six days Diaz's eye was completely gone, he had frost bite on his hands and paralysis had set in. He was laid to rest in his sleeping bag at Camp III.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

Gasherbrum II, Attempt. The seven member New England Expedition Team consisted of Maury McKinney, Brad White, Joe Lenteni, A.J. LaFleur, Tom Pollard, Bill Cialdea, and was led by Rick Wilcox. The expedition was the first of the 1996 season. We established Base Camp on May 17. During the next month we established camps at the traditional heights of 5900 meters

(Camp I), 6400 meters (Camp II), 6900 meters (Camp III), and 7400 meters (Camp IV). All team members, with the exception of Joe Lenteni, arrived at Camp IV on June 11th. The weather for the last 10 days had been fabulous. During the night of the June 11-12, high winds arrived, the prelude to a major Karakoram storm. On June 13 all members at Camp IV descended through extreme avalanche conditions, high winds, and low visibility to Camp III. The dangerous descent continued on June 14 to safety at Camp I, which was reached after dark. The storm raged for nine days total, and deposited over three meters of snow on the base camp.

RICK WILCOX

Gasherbrum I and II, Ascents. Alan Hinkes (U.K.) summited two 8000ers during the 1996 season: Gasherbrum I on July 10 at 10 a.m. and Gasherbrum II on July 29 at 4 p.m. Hinkes was part of an Austrian expedition led by Wilfried Studer.

ASEM MUSTAFA AWAN, *The Nation, Pakistan*

Gasherbrum I and Gasherbrum II, Enchainment. The French climber and guide Jean-Christophe Lafaille, best known for climbing hard endurance routes, completed ascents of Gasherbrums II and I in one continuous push, without descending to Base Camp, in July. He arrived at Base Camp on July 6 but bad weather made climbing impossible for three weeks. He started his project on the day that had been scheduled as the end of his expedition. On July 28 he soloed Gasherbrum II (8035 m) by the standard route in the very short time of 11 hours 20 minutes. After a rest in his tent at 5900 meters on July 31, Lafaille climbed Gasherbrum I (8068 m). He felt a bit tired and the descent was tiresome too. The ascents were made totally alpine style with no help from anyone else. The two-summit round trip was covered in somewhat less than four days. The first traverse of both summits was made in 1984 by Reinhold Messner and Hans Kammerlander within eight days. They made their descents by different routes.

JOZEF NYKA, *Editor, Tatarnik*

Gasherbrum I and II, Ascents. It was reported that Iñaki Ochoa (29) of Spain completed ascents of both Gasherbrum I (8065 m) and Gasherbrum II (8035 m) in July. He began on July 10 with an ascent of GI, then moved on to GII, which he climbed in a 36-hour push from Base Camp without supplemental oxygen. GII marked his fourth successful 8000-meter summit. (*Climbing*)

Lila Peak, West Face/North Ridge, First Official Ascent.* Lila Peak (6200 m) in the Gondokoro area of the Pakistan Karakoram was officially unclimbed; however, signs of a British group were found on the summit (gas cartridge) and west face-south slopes/ face-west (the British group climbed without a permit on the easier route of our descent.) The summit was reached on July 2 at 11 a.m. by Fabio Iacchini and Paolo Cavaghetto. The two started from ABC at 1:20 a.m. and climbed alpine style (no fixed ropes) on the 55-degree slopes. The main difficulties were the avalanche dangers due to loose snow below the summit. The descent took place on the west face down to the west col (10 rappels), and then on the easier south-facing slopes. At 5 p.m. the pair was back at BC. The summit was reached again on July 3 by the second team (Camillo Della Vedova, Giovanni Ongaro and Guido Ruggeri). They left ABC at 12:10 a.m. and reached the summit at 11 a.m. They spent two hours on top, then descended to BC, which they reached at 10 p.m.