

out fixed rope we could not have gone higher. In this condition, for us this is the summit. We know we were not at the very last point, but for us this is the summit.”

But the South Korean climber Park Young-Seok, who followed their footprints in the crusted snow three days later in clearer weather, does not consider that they actually gained the summit. While Martini and De Stefani indicate they were perhaps only a few meters below the top, Park claims that their footprints stopped about 30 meters below a small foresummit and 150 vertical meters below the highest summit, which, he says, was slightly to the right and behind the lower point; he asserts he himself did get to the very top.

The well-known Frenchwoman, Miss Chantal Mauduit, the only woman currently engaged in the contest to climb all of the 8000ers, has claimed success already on six of them, including Gasherbrum II in July, and this autumn had hope of summiting two more, Dhaulagiri I and Annapurna I, without bottled oxygen but with one Sherpa climbing with her. However, she reported failure on the first, and she never actually went to the second one. Dhaulagiri I had been successfully summited by the Martinez Brothers and one Bulgarian in late September, but when Mauduit started her climb of the mountain at the very end of the month, she managed to reach no higher than 7500 meters, where she arrived on October 18, because of heavy new snowfall and very low temperatures. She had considerable difficulty even getting away from her base camp through very deep snow in the passes and had to leave all her climbing gear behind, so she was unable to attempt Annapurna I and had to return to Kathmandu instead.

A Briton who should have come to Nepal to add several summits to the nine 8000-meter “conquests” he claims, Alan Hinkes, failed to turn up at all. He had been disappointed in the spring by having been able to get to the top of only one of the three he planned to summit that season. His program for the rest of the year included one during the summer in the Karakoram, Nanga Parbat, and two in Nepal in the autumn. But his hopes of quickly becoming the first Briton to top all the 8000ers were thwarted by a sneezing fit. He had gone to Nanga Parbat in July to knock that one off when the flour covering the chapati he was eating got up his nose, and he sneezed so violently that did some sort of injury to his back. He was unable to move and was in great pain; he had to be removed from the mountain by helicopter and hospitalized in Britain. He told his agent in Kathmandu that he would definitely come to Nepal in the autumn, but he never showed up, and finally his British sponsor informed the agent that Hinkes would not be coming.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

*Makalu, West Face, Ascent and Tragedy.* A team of climbers from Ekaterinburg, Russia, led by Sergei Efimov, made an ascent of Makalu’s west face in the pre-monsoon season. Their ascent followed the right-hand ice faces to the great headwall, then joined the French West Pillar route by climbing a rock buttress. Two team members perished on the ascent. A full account appears earlier in this journal.

*Jannu, North Face, Attempt.* In the fall, our team went to attempt the north face of Jannu (7710m) in Nepal. We fixed ropes to 6000 meters but were turned back by weather and a dwindling team effort. The face remains unclimbed on the right side. It is an outstanding feature and will make for an amazing climb. Team members were Jared Ogden, Stephen Sustad, Guillermo and Damian Benegas, Travis Spitzer, Cameron Lawson, Vera Wong, Fernandito Grahales, and Todd Gilmore.

JARED OGDEN