

NEPAL

Pre-Monsoon in the Nepal Himalaya. Seven climbers died this spring in the Nepalese Himalaya, all during descents from 8000-meter summits. Two had no previous success on any 8000-meter mountain and used artificial oxygen during the final hours of their climbs to their summits, while five had been to the tops of 8000ers in previous years and did not use oxygen at all this spring. The seven were:

- Pascal Debrouwer, a 29-year-old Belgian organizer and guide of travel in mountain regions of the world who before this year had scaled the least difficult 8000er, Cho Oyu, on Everest's north side. He used no bottled oxygen.
- Tadeusz Kudelski, a 44-year-old Polish teacher with no summit success on any lower 8000er, on Everest's north side. He did use artificial oxygen.
- Michael Matthews, a 22-year-old British securities trader also with no previous 8000-meter summit experience, on Everest's south side. He too used supplemental oxygen.
- Vasili Kopytko, a 34-year-old Ukrainian doctor who had scaled Cho Oyu and now was part of a three-man summit party who were the first Ukrainian citizens to reach the summit, on Everest's north side. He used no artificial oxygen.
- Miss Ji Hyun-Ok, a 33-year-old South Korean fine-arts teacher who had summited Gasherbrum I and Gasherbrum II in recent years, on Annapurna I's north face. She became the first Korean woman to reach the highest peak of Annapurna I, but she and her Sherpa companion fell to their deaths the same day. She used no bottled oxygen.
- Kami Dorchi Sherpa, 33, who scaled both Annapurna I and Manaslu last year. He accompanied Miss Ji to the top of Annapurna I and died with her. He also used no bottled oxygen.
- Michael Knakkegaard-Jorgensen (better known by a simplified version of his family name, Jorgensen), a 31-year-old mountaineer and tour operator who had scaled Everest and Lhotse in recent years, on Makalu's northwest side. He was the first Dane ever to summit Makalu. He used no bottled oxygen.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Post-Monsoon in the Nepal Himalaya. In the post-monsoon in the Nepal Himalaya, the summer monsoon rains and snowfall continued throughout September and into early October, several weeks beyond the normal end of the rainy season, only to be followed by a few mid-October days of more heavy snowfall resulting from a cyclone nearby in India. Many teams on Cho Oyu, Ama Dablam, Baruntse and other mountains with very limited time at their disposal had to retreat from what they considered unsafe avalanche conditions or simply from snow too deep to manage to get through.

There was very little success on Nepal's eight 8000ers. Even on Cho Oyu, where success rates are often high, 21 expeditions did some climbing but just nine of them sent anyone to the top and all followed the normal route on the northwest side. The other 12 teams—including cautiously-led commercial ones—withdrew well below the summit because of dangerous snow conditions. And those who were successful were able to reach the summit only from September 26-October 1; before and after those dates, snow conditions were very bad.

One Japanese mountaineer, Toshiyuki Kitamura, tried to solo Cho Oyu's seldom-climbed southwest face but had to abandon his attempt at 7400 meters in soft snow under a hot sun that defeated him. He moved over to the standard route and followed teammates to the top

five days after their ascent.

No one even attempted Annapurna I. Only one team out of seven (a predominantly American group that included Ginette Harrison; see below) had any summiters on Dhaulagiri I. Everest had no summiters at all, and the same was true for Kangchenjunga, Lhotse and Makalu, which had only one team each, and for Manaslu with four parties.

On Everest, there were only four expeditions this autumn (one Spanish party for Nepal's Southeast Ridge route, one Spanish and one Italian group for the North Col in Tibet, though they were not there at the same time, and a South Korean group on the seldom-attempted 1983 American Route on the east face, also in Tibet). None were successful. The last previous autumn season in which only four teams came to Everest was in 1985.

There were surprisingly few fatal accidents in the Nepalese Himalaya this season despite the very dangerous snow conditions. But five climbers did die in Nepal, and all were killed by avalanches. The American climber Alex Lowe died with his teammate David Bridges on Xixabangma (Shishapangma), which is entirely in Tibet and covered accordingly later in this journal. The 41-year-old Briton, Mrs. Ginette Harrison, the only woman ever to summit Kangchenjunga, was caught in a danger zone around 6500 meters on Dhaulagiri I on October 24. She was highly experienced in Himalayan climbing and in organizing and conducting expeditions to these great peaks. In addition to Kangchenjunga via its difficult north face in May 1998, she had summited three other 8000ers, including Everest in October, 1993.

A Nepalese Sherpa who was climbing with a French expedition, Dawa Dorje, was also killed by the avalanche that struck Ginette Harrison. The others who died on Nepalese mountains were two South Koreans, Han Do-Kyu and Hyun Myeong-Kun, on the north side of Kangchenjunga and Sange Sherpa with a South Korean team on the normal Northwest route for Makalu.

ELIZABETH HAWLEY

Trekking Peaks of Nepal, Ascents and Attempts. In an effort to climb all 18 trekking peaks in Nepal as catalogued by Bill O'Connor's book, *The Trekking Peaks of Nepal*, the British Army Nepal Expedition sent different teams to all the respective mountains with the objective of making "field observations" of the routes described in the book while climbing the routes. Changes were to be noted in updated descriptions that would be the basis for a new publication on the same topic. Fifteen out of the 18 peaks were summited. Those that defeated attempts were Hiunchuli, Singu Chuli and Ramdung. Further details are lacking.

Kanjiroba, Ascent. It was reported that Britons Richard Bull, Neil Cooper, Andy Hawes, Mal Lewis, Andy Lind, Josie Poole, Ben Steele and Alison and Tom Wedgwood made the fifth ascent of Kanjiroba Main Summit (6883m). It was the first time in 20 years that the mountain had seen an ascent. The crux was the approach to the mountain. Taking the route pioneered in 1961 by John Tyson, the team proceeded up the Jagdula Gorge in a ten-day bush-whack that involved the building of four bridges, a number of rappels and Tyrolean traverses and construction of wooden ladders to navigate vertical rock walls. Base Camp was established at 4200 meters at the foot of the mountain. From an Advanced Base Camp at 5200 meters, Bull, Cooper, Hawes, Lewis and Steele, along with a climbing Sherpa and cook, Ringi, proceed to fix 200 meters of rope on a 45-degree snow slope to reach the southeast ridge at ca. 6000 meters. On September 26, they continued up the ridge in deep snow, led by Ringi, who broke trail for the team and fixed a 12-meter ice wall that would prove to be the