

Chengdu hospital. They had been replaced by a group from China.

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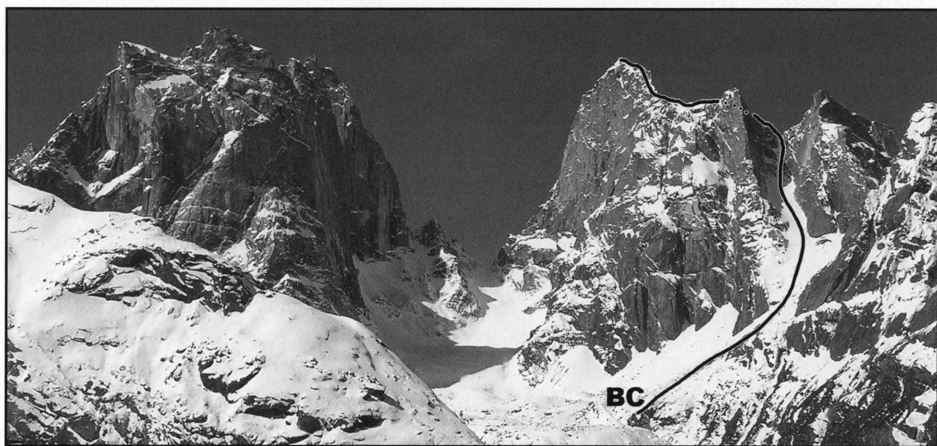
DYLAN JOHNSON, AAC

*Peak 5,086m, south face, attempt.* On October 7 and 8 Chinese climbers Gong Xiaorui, He Chuan, and Wu Peng attempted the south face of Peak 5,086m, a granite shark's fin nearly climbed from the opposite side a month earlier by Americans Dickey, Johnson, and Kellogg via the northwest ridge [see previous report]. The Chinese approached from the Shuangqiao, climbed seven and a half pitches the first day, bivouacked, and climbed a further two and a half pitches on the second. Although they believed they had completed the major difficulties, they were still some distance from the summit; concerned about time, they retreated. To their high point at 4,910m, they had climbed 520m (310m vertical gain) at V 5.10b A0. They estimate another 250m of climbing (180m of vertical gain) to the summit.

YAN DONGDONG, China

*Daogou West (5,422m), northeast couloir and north ridge.* On October 23 and 24, 2008, Chinese mountaineers Chen Hui, Gu Qizhi, and Peng Xiaolong made the second known ascent of Daogou West, via a new route up the northeast couloir and north ridge, with a bivouac halfway up the couloir. The team approached from the upper Changping Valley and sited base camp immediately below the face.

Kester Brown and Vaughn Thomas made the only previous ascent of this summit, climbing the south face from the Shuangqiao Valley in September 2006 (AAJ 2007).



Looking southwest towards Daogou (5,465m, left) and Daogou West (5,422m) from north side of upper Changping Valley. 2008 Chinese route is marked. Daogou was climbed from far side by an American team in 2005, while an Australian-New Zealand pair climbed Daogou West from far side in 2006. Jeremy Thornley collection

YAN DONGDONG, China