



The "World of Skiing" is writing a new and exciting history every year; photographers and the media are trying to set up this History and this Book will be another important milestone to keep in the living-room at home and show to friends and grandsons.

It is not easy for me, as a former athlete, to introduce in a few words the giant 30-year history of Worldloppet and generally the popular long distance races, but I am happy to do it with great emotion.

At the end of my career I took part, and I will do it in the future too, in some "Worldloppets" and it was really exciting. The giant starts with thousands and thousands of skiers, the tension of the last seconds before the "go", the enthusiasm of the supporters along

the course and at the finish, the happy hours after the race, sitting down in a comfortable hotel and remembering with "opponents-friends" are very strong emotions and feelings.

The Worldloppet Ski Federation sets up a new "way of life" for thousands of popular Cross Country skiers, travelling around the world, meeting new people, experiencing foreign traditions, skiing the most important and beautiful XC ski races in the world.

I am really grateful to the people who founded Worldloppet 30 Years ago, and of course to those who organise the races today, supported by thousands of volunteers, with a lot of work, personal risks and troubles, however with an incredible passion.

As "Ambassador" of RIGHT TO PLAY please allow me to remind you that in the world there are millions of children who need our help, and we need Yours!

In conclusion I would like to express to the authors of this book my compliments and wish to the Worldloppet Organisers good luck and lots of snow on the tracks all over the world. Certainly I will meet you on the course, because I want to add to my titles another prestigious one, as WORLDLOPPET MASTER!

Bjorn Daehlie

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- 9 Olympic Winter Games medals
 - 12 World Ski Championship medals