

The President made three runs from Eagle's Nest (top of Gondola #2). The first run was described as a warm-up...and press did not accompany him. The second run was down Simba, an easy intermediate trail, which had been closed off. After stopping at the two press sites, the President cut across the mountain to the bottom of Chair #9...and went back up. The skiing pool met him at the top of #9.

Ford was using Rossignol ~~skis~~^{skis}, 180 cm, Look Nevada bindings, Lange Boots. He was dressed in a blue Bogner ski outfit. We asked if it were a Christmas present. He said "Well, Santa brought it."

Skiing with the President were Jim Brown, rancher friend from Utah; Ted Kindel, one of the founders of Vail; Bob Parker, Senior VP of Vail Associates and another of the founders; Pepe Gramshammer; Henry Patty, U.S. Distributor for Rossignol skis; Mort Lund, of Ski Magazine; Bill Brown, Director of Slopes and Trails for Vail Associates, Dr. Wm Lukash, and several Secret Service Agents, Vail patrolmen, and the press pool.

Ford skis well. The ~~press~~ pool agrees on a description of "advanced intermediate." He moved down the hill fairly fast. At no time, while the pool was with him, did he fall. He seemed to be enjoying himself...and frequently would turn to Larry Buendorf to ask where the press pool and the pre-positioned press wanted him to stop.

In in various chats with reporters at the press sites...he described conditions as perfect. This was only a slight over-statement. The new snow had made conditions good to excellent. At one point, the President spoke of six inches of new snow. According to Ski Patrol Headquarters, there were two inches of snow last nite, one inch this morning, and three more inches expected during the day.

Russ Ward
Grace Bassett
Tom Brokaw

Mort Lund (Ski magazine, above) said he planned to give the President some skis that are a replica of those used by Teddy Roosevelt. The President, Lund said, would give the skis to a local ~~museum~~ ski museum.

Pepe Gramshammer said of the President's skiing:

"He is skiing very well. He skis better than he did last year. He takes nice long turns through the snow."