

Gelso, Buffs roll to RMISA crown

CU senior wins second regional championship

Camera staff report
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STEAMBOAT SPRINGS -- Colorado senior Matt Gelso won his second regional championship on Saturday to lead the Buffs to the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association title.

The meet also served served as the NCAA West Regional. The NCAA Championships will also be held at Steamboat on March 10-13.

The No. 2-ranked Buffaloes, who scored at least 100 points in seven of the eight disciplines, finished with 902 points to easily outdistance runner-up Alaska-Anchorage (764). Top-ranked New Mexico (725), Utah (704) and No. 4 Denver (700.5) rounded out the top five.

The title was Colorado's 24th RMISA championship, with 10 of them coming under current head coach Richard Rokos.

"Mission accomplished," Rokos said. "We qualified a full team and are looking forward to competition right back here in two weeks on the same courses. Today's slalom was one of the most turbulent races, when our solid standing after the first run turned into some chaos in the second run.

"Credit again should go to our Nordic team for a very solid performance, and an outstanding one in particular on the men's side."

Gelso, who won the Nordic classical title on Friday, added the 20K freestyle crown to his collection on Saturday to give him victories in four consecutive races. Gelso finished in 54 minutes, 7.4 seconds, a comfortable 26 seconds ahead of Alaska-Anchorage runner-up Michael Schallinger.

"Today went well, I definitely made it through my training right," Gelso said. "I've been working up to a peak and I'm getting there so I should be ready to go in two weekends for NCAAs."

The Buffs also got top-10 freestyle finishes from Jesper Ostensen (third), Reid Pletcher (fourth) and Ian Mallams (seventh).

In the women's freestyle event, CU's Alexa Turzian finished third, followed by teammates Eliska Hajkova in sixth and Joanne Reid in ninth.

CU also picked up a second-place finish in the men's slalom from Gabriel Rivas.

In the women's slalom, CU received a 3-4 finish from Carolina Nordh and Sara Hjertman.

In the east on Saturday, Dartmouth held the lead after the first day, with Middlebury in second and Vermont in third.

RMISA Championship/

NCAA West Regional

Team Scores -- 1. Colorado 902; 2. Alaska 764; 3. New Mexico 725; 4. Utah 705; 5. Denver 700½; 6. Montana State 640; 7. Nevada 635½.

Men's 20k Freestyle (37 finishers) -- 1. Matt Gelso, CU, 54:07.4; 2. Michael Schallinger, UAA, 54:33.9; 3. Jesper Ostensen, CU, 54:48.0; 4. Reid Pletcher, CU, 54:48.8; 5. Harald Loevenskiold, DU, 54:49.9; 6. Charlie Smith, UN, 54:50.3; 7. Ian Mallams, CU, 54:50.9; 8. Didrik Smith, UU, 54:55.4; 9. Martin Liljemmark, UU, 54:55.9; 10. Miles Havlick, UU, 54:56.2.

Other CU Finishers: 14. Patrick Neel, 56:09.4; 22. Vegard Kjoelhamar, 57:04.6

Women`s 10k Freestyle (31 finishers) -- 1. Maria Graefnings, UN, and Antje Maempel, DU, 45:35.1; 3. Alexa Turzian, CU, 46:05.2; 4. Kate Dolan, DU, 46:24.5; 5. Polina Ermoshina, UNM, 46:41.7; 6. Eliska Hajkova, CU, 46:48.3; 7. Kaelin Kiesel, MSU, 47:10.8; 8. Zoe Roy, UU, 47:27.7; 9. Joanne Reid, CU, 47:32.7; 10. Stephanie Hiemer, UAA, 47:40.3. **Other CU Finishers:** 22. Katie Stege, 51:34.6; 24. Mary Rose, 51:52.7.

Men`s Slalom (26 finishers) -- 1. Petter Brenna, UNM, 1:14.74; 2. Gabriel Rivas, CU, 1:14.95; 3. Halfdan Falkum-Hansen, UAA, 1:15.15; 4. Thomas Schwab, UNM, 1:15.31; 5. Kyle Kung, UU, 1:15.96; 6. Toby Lamar, MSU, 1:16.77; 7. Shane Collins, UN, 1:17.01; 8. Andreas Adde, UAA, 1:17.51; 9. Kristopher Shampeny, MSU, 1:20.13; 10. Taggart Spenst, CU, 1:20.43. **Other CU Finishers:** 16. Drew Roberts, 1:25.87; 17. Spencer Nelson, 1:30.13; 20. Arman Serebrakian, 1:36.54; 29. Stefan Hughes, 2:53.12.

Women`s Slalom (32 finishers) -- 1. Anna Kocken, UU, 1:20.32; 2. Anne Brusletto, UNM, 1:21.05; 3. Carolina Nordh, CU, 1:21.16; 4. Sara Hjertman, CU, 1:21.26; 5. Alexandra Parker, UAA, 1:21.46; 6. Petra Gantnerova, UAA, 1:21.55; 7. Ida Dillingoen, DU, 1:22.15; 8. Malin Hemmingsson, UNM, 1:22.20; 9. Joelle Chevalier, CU, 1:22.58; 10. Nicole Poleschuk, UNR, 1:22.84. Other CU Finishers: 26. Khylla Burrows, CU, 1:27.37; 28. Erika Ghent, CU, 1:39.96; 31. Katie Hartman CU, 1:44.75. Did Not Finish (2nd run): Jennifer Allen

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The University of Colorado ski team won the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association Championships in Steamboat Springs, racking up the points with a 1-3-4 finish in the men's 20-kilometer freestyle nordic race Saturday afternoon.

The event doubles as the NCAA West Regional, and CU won with 902 points, followed Alaska-Anchorage with 764. The University of Denver was fifth with 700 1/2 points.

Matt Gelso, Jesper Ostensen and Reid Pletcher had the 1-3-4 finish for CU in the men's nordic race. Nevada's Maria Graefnigs and DU's Antje Maempel tied for first in the women's 10K.

Back to the drawing board.

CU's men's and women's teams each finished last at the Big 12 indoor track and field championships in Ames, Iowa. Emma Coburn had the best finish for CU — sixth in the mile.

Pioneers get Tierney first win.

Alex Demopoulos and Cameron Flint each had hat tricks as the DU men's lacrosse team defeated No. 20 Albany 17-13 at Peter Barton Lacrosse Stadium.

Adams State track team on top.

Indira Spence won the women's 60- and 200-meter dashes to lead Adams State to the women's title at the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference indoor track and field championships in Golden, and the ASC men completed the sweep for the Grizzlies.

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