

CU Buffs win opening ski meet of season

Bufs finish with 21 top-10 performances

Camera staff report
Boulder Daily Camera

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BOZEMAN, Mont. -- Despite not winning a single individual title, the Colorado ski team claimed victory in the Montana State Invitational on Sunday.

The Buffs finished the opening meet of the season with 903 points thanks to 21 top-10 finishes. New Mexico was second with 835 points and Denver was third (822).

Five CU skiers finished in the top 10 on the final day of competition, led by Gabriel Rivas. The junior was third in the men's slalom, less than a week after he suffered a severely bruised calf muscle on the first day of the season in the giant slalom in Park City, Utah.

Rivas, the defending NCAA champion in the slalom, clocked a two-run time of 1 minute, 31.96 seconds. He was two-tenths of a second behind Denver's Leif Haugen and 1/100th of tick behind Utah's Torjus Krogdahl.

Senior Drew Roberts was ninth (1:33.92) and sophomore Eric Davis was 13th (1:34.52) to place as CU's third scorer. Seniors Stefan Hughes (20th, 1:35.65), Arman Serebrakian (24th, 1:37.50) and sophomore Taggart Spenst (33rd, 2:15.81) rounded out the CU finishers. Buffs freshman Spencer Nelson fell during his second run and did not finish.

In the women's slalom, freshman Erika Ghent posted her fifth top-five finish in as many races this winter, claiming fourth in 1:40.60. Utah's Eva Huckova won in 1:39.76.

CU freshman Sara Hjertman tied for sixth (1:40.95) and junior Carolina Nordh was eighth (1:41.09). Junior Katie Hartman (12th, 1:41.40), freshman Khyla Burrows (21st, 1:43.64) and sophomore Jennifer Allen (23rd, 1:45.07) also participated. Sophomore Joelle Chevalier had some troubles her second time down the mountain and did not finish.

The Buffs' victory was the 48th in 118 meets under 20th year head coach Richard Rokos.

"Our goals aren't changing, the first is to qualify as many skiers as possible for the NCAA Championships and improve those seeds of those who have qualified," Rokos said in noting the Buffs have already qualified a handful of performers after just one meet. "But winning a meet of this kind does help to build our confidence."

The alpine teams will return to Boulder today, while the Nordic teams head to Soldier Hollow to compete in the Nordic portion of the Utah Invitational on Friday and Saturday.

In the portion of the meet contested last week, New Mexico won the alpine events with 467 points. Colorado is fourth with 370.

Montana State Invitational

Team Scores -- 1. Colorado 903; 2. New Mexico 835; 3. Denver 822; 4. Utah 713; 5. Alaska-Anchorage 706; 6. Nevada 608; 7. Montana State 599.

Men's Slalom (33 finishers) -- 1. Leif Haugen, DU, 1:31.76; 2. Torjus Krogdahl, Utah, 1:31.95; 3. Gabriel Rivas, CU, 1:31.96; 4. Martin Harris, UINR, 1:32.78; 5. Grant Jampolsky, DU, 1:33.29; 6. Olivier Lacaille, UNM, 1:33.65; 7. Andreas Adde, UAA, 1:33.70; 8. Thomas Schwab, UNM, 1:33.73; 9. Drew Roberts, CU, 1:33.92; 10. Chris Barber, MSU, 1:34.10.

Other CU Finishers: 13. Eric Davis, 1:34.52; 20. Stefan Hughes, 1:35.65; 24. Arman Serebrakian, 1:37.50; 33. Taggart Spenst, 2:15.81. **Did Not Finish (2nd run):** Spencer Nelson.

Women's Slalom (34 finishers) -- 1. Eva Huckova, Utah, 1:39.76; 2. Lindsay Cone, DU, 1:39.94; 3. Kate Williams, UNM,

1:40.45; 4. Erika Ghent, CU, 1:40.60; 5. Alexandra Parker, UAA, 1:40.88; 6 (tie). Sara Hjertman, CU, and Anne Brusletto, UNM, 1:40.95; 8. Carolina Nordh, CU, 1:41.00; 9. Malin Hemmingsson, UNM, 1:41.06; 10. Jacqueline Hangl, UNM, 1:41.17. **Other CU Finishers:** 12. Katie Hartman, 1:41.40; 21. Khyla Burrows, 1:43.64; 23. Jennifer Allen, 1:45.07. **Did Not Finish (2nd run):** Joelle Chevalier

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Skiers winners

Bufs take home MSU Invitational

By Ron Knabenbauer on January 18, 2010

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Junior Carolina Nordh finished in eighth place in women's slalom. An earlier version gave her an incorrect finish in the race. We regret the error. 1/18/10; 10:42

Even without an individual win, the Colorado Buffaloes ski team is returning home as winners.

The Buffs secured the victory in the Montana State Invitational Sunday after five skiers finished in the top 10 in slalom in the opening meet of the winter.

Junior Gabriel Rivas led the way for CU, finishing third in men's slalom with a time of 1:31.96. Senior Drew Roberts, in ninth, was the other men's skier that finished in the top 10.

Freshman Erika Ghent in fourth, sophomore Sara Hjertman in sixth, and junior Carolina Nordh in ninth in women's slalom were the other three Colorado skiers that found their way into the final ten.

The Buffs finished with 903 points while second place New Mexico finished with 835 points, and third place Denver with 822 points.

Next up for the ski team is the completion of the Utah Invitational with the Nordic events on Friday and Saturday at Soldier Hollow, Utah.

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