



# Bufs' Nordh picking up where Zikova left off

## Sophomore third in giant slalom

By Kyle Ringo

Thursday, January 15, 2009

ELDORA -- Perhaps the biggest question on the mind of Colorado coach Richard Rokos prior to the start of the collegiate ski season was who would step forward on the women's side and pick up the slack left by departed three-time NCAA champion Lucie Zikova.

That question is already beginning to be answered in the season's second week.

Carolina Nordh, a sophomore transfer from Sundbyberg, Sweden, finished third Wednesday in the giant slalom on the first day of the 15th annual Colorado Invitational at Eldora Mountain Resort. Her best event, the slalom, comes today.

Nordh's two-run time of 2 minutes, 8.79 seconds was the highlight of a solid day for the CU female alpine skiers. Combined with two top-10 finishes in two meets in Alaska last week, Wednesday's result assured Nordh of qualifying for the NCAA Championships in March.

Nordh said the only part of the course that gave her trouble was one section on a knoll just before a flat section. There were some difficult turns there she said she managed well.

"I'm already qualified for NCAAs now, so it's like there is no pressure now to qualify and I can just ski fast and have fun," she said. "I put so much pressure on myself. I think it's a good thing that you don't have to think so much in skiing. You can just go for it. That's good for me."

Three Bufs finished among the top 15 in the giant slalom with Nordh in third, senior Lisa Perricone tied for eighth and Jennifer Allen 11th. Perricone, a two-time, first-team All-American in the giant slalom is still looking for her first career win in the event.

Colorado is in third place in the team standings with 128.5 points after the first day of the four-day competition at both Eldora and Aspen. Nordic events, the Bufs' strength, will take place Friday and Saturday in Aspen. New Mexico leads with 149 and the University of Denver is second with 130.

New Mexico had three women finish among the top-15 in the giant slalom, and Petter Brenna won the men's race for the Lobos. University of Alaska's Alexandra Parker won the women's race.

There could have been a fourth Buff in the mix, but after a solid first run among the top-10, Katie Hartman fell in the second run and did not finish. Hartman could just as easily be the skier who fills Zikova's shoes this year if she can stay healthy.

Rokos said he was concerned that Hartman might not be able to ski today in the slalom competition and

in the near future after she aggravated an already sore rib injury.

Nordh, a sophomore who is about to turn 23, is already one of the more experienced skiers on the hill despite being a rookie at the collegiate level. She will be a 25-year-old in her prime by the time the NCAA Championships roll around in her senior year.

"I've never competed as a team before and that's a completely new thing because you have to finish," Nordh said. "But I love it. It's so much fun.

"When you're just skiing for yourself, it doesn't matter if you go out or don't finish."

Nordh arrived in Boulder in August and spoke minimal English. She has had to settle in and learn every day just to function in school and within the team. Rokos said he is getting exactly what he expected from her so far.

"The expectation was that she would ski well, and it doesn't always happen because there is a certain transition and adjustment for a new environment and school and everything that is new in her life," Rokos said. "She adapted to it very well.

"My intent was to replace Lucie with someone of her caliber and Carolina was the first pick. So I have that hope in my heart."

Outside of a fifth-place finish by senior Tony Cesolini, the CU men had a disappointing first day as hosts. Cesolini and Arman Serebrakian were the only Bufs who finished in the top 15 in the men's giant slalom.

Taggart Spent was among the top-15 in the first run, but fell and did not finish the second.

Though the Bufs are the host team, the home-mountain advantage was minimal this year because the Bufs have had only four or five training runs on the giant slalom course before Wednesday, Rokos said.

"I'm a little disappointed," Rokos said. "I was hoping that the guys would be able to pull a stronger performance on the home hill."

## **Colorado Invitational**

### **At Eldora Mountain Resort**

**Team Scores** --1. New Mexico 149; 2. Denver 130; 3. Colorado 128. 5; 4. Utah 126. 5; 5. Alaska-Anchorage 125; 6. Montana State 97; 7. Nevada 82; 8. Whitman 50; 9. Wyoming 0.

**Women's Giant Slalom** -- 1. Alexandra Parker, UAA, 2:07. 94; 2. Estelle Pecherand-Charmet, UNM, 2:08. 20; 3. Carolina Nordh, CU, 2:08. 79; 4. Stefanie Demetz, UNM, 2:09. 61; 5. Chelsea Laswell, UU, 2:10. 29; 6. Eva Huckova, UU, 2:10. 53; 7. Georgia Wettlaufer, DU, 2:10. 59; 8. Lisa Perricone, CU, and Mikaela Grassl, UU, 2:10. 72; 10. Karin Ohlin, UNM, 2:11. 15.

11. Jennifer Allen, CU, 2:11. 31; 12. Amy Lattimer, MSU, 2:11. 39; 13. Chirine Njeim, UU, 2:11. 89; 14. Sandra MacDonald, UAA, 2:11. 94; 15. Amy Harris, UN, 2:12. 20; 16. Carmel McElroy, MSU, 2:12. 25; 17. Kristina Palovicova, UN, 2:12. 44; 18. Molly Ryan, DU, 2:13. 30; 19. Erika Horst, UN, 2:13. 40; 20. Alison Leighton, MSU, 2:13. 41.

21. Lacy Saugstad, UAA, 2:14. 95; 22. Sofia Smith, UU, 2:16. 27; 23. Hannah Victory, MSU, 2:17. 08; 24. Amanda Goyne, UN, 2:17. 12; 25. Elizabeth Allen, WHT, 2:22. 53; 26. Lexie Drechsel, WHT, 2:24. 80; 27. Megan Bacharach, MSU, 2:28. 73; 28. Ida Dillingoeen, DU, 2:28. 77; 29. Heidi Hillenbrand, CU, 2:32. 11; 30. Ashley Babcock, CU, 2:35. 19; 31. Polly Evans, WHT, 2:43. 20; 32. Taryn O'Flynn, UN, 2:57. 50; 33. Jacqueline Hangl, UNM, 3:12. 77.

Did Not Finish (CU): Joelle Chevalier (1st run), Katie Hartman (2nd run).

**Men's Giant Slalom** -- 1. Petter Brenna, UNM, 2:04. 60; 2. Leif Haugen, DU, 2:05. 23; 3. John Buchar, DU, 2:05. 31; 4. Andreas Kilde, DU, 2:05. 40; 5. Tony Cesolini, CU, 2:05. 43; 6. Jonathan Hverven, UAA, 2:05. 44; 7. Thomas Schwab, UNM, 2:05. 45; 8. Seppi Stiegler, DU, 2:05. 63; 9. Scott Veenis, UU, 2:06. 37; 10. Shane Collins, UN, 2:06. 60.

11. Halfdan Falkum-Hansen, UAA, 2:06. 64; 12. Egil Ismar, UAA, 2:06. 67; 13. Gregory Berger, UN, 2:06. 81; 14. Nikolai Finne, UNM, 2:06. 99; 15. Arman Serebrakian, CU, 2:07. 01; 16. Thomas Zumbrunn, UU, 2:07. 29; 17. Ian Lochhead, DU, 2:07. 43; 18. Gabriel Rivas, CU, 2:07. 47; 19. Drew Roberts, CU, 2:07. 78; 20. Stefan Hughes, CU, 2:08. 25.

21. Hermann Lager, UU, 2:09. 87; 22. Eric Davis, CU, 2:10. 71; 23. Torjus Krogdahl, UU, 2:10. 72; 24. Chet Cook, MSU, 2:11. 40; 25. Dan McKay, UAA, 2:11. 84; 26. Toby Lamar, MSU, 2:12. 49; 27. Zach Fretz, UN, 2:12. 50; 28. Jeff Crompton, UAA, 2:13. 06; 29. Dylan Bryant, UN, 2:14. 06; 30. Joey Nelson, MSU, 2:14. 45.

31. Andrew Fischer, UAA, 2:14. 48; 32. Kristopher Champeny, MSU, 2:16. 73; 33. Nathan Ord, WHT, 2:19. 70; 34. Chris MacHesney WHT, 2:20. 29; 35. Olivier Lacaille, UNM, :20. 79; 36. Eric Anderson, UN, 2:32. 37; 37. Tim Bak, WHT, 2:33. 96; 38. Ryan Wolosyn, UAA, 2:48. 09.

Did Not Finish (CU): Taggart Spenst (2nd run).



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