

SPORTS

Reflecting on the Colorado Classic

Eighteen unread messages on WhatsApp, and the race finished 45 minutes ago. I'm at serious risk of missing out on a Chipotle burrito if I don't respond quickly.

"Bags to the van" — Lee (team owner)

"I have recovery mix in the cooler" — Sabrina (team soungier)

"Heather is at the anti-doping tent, take her some water" — Cathy (team owner)

"Return race radios to their case" — Sabrina

"Need Chipotle orders" — Alex (team owner)

Stage racing requires a traveling village of supporters to pull off the logistics. Even though we're one of the smaller teams racing the Colorado Classic, DNA Professional Cycling Team includes a crew of four in addition to the six racers. Our soungier handles meals, daily massage, feed zones, setup and late-night brownie runs.

Our three team owners handle everything under the sun. They direct, work on bikes, coordinate logistics, take pictures, develop race strategy, drive in the caravan, post on social, and more.

SPOKE TALK



This racing circus kicked off Stage 1 in Steamboat Springs, which is the reason I could not resist joining the road racing ranks after a four-year hiatus. I'm biased, but wow — Steamboat certainly represented in a way that only our community knows how to do.

The roar of the crowd sending us off to the start was deafening, with the Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club athletes front and center. The punchy course weaved around the Yampa Valley, featuring some of the best cycling roads in the state along River Road, over Yellow Jacket Pass, through the town of Oak Creek, up the Corkscrew and along some of our incredible gravel roads past Big Valley Ranch.

After Stage 1, the team was down from six to five riders, and none of us were high enough on the GC rankings — general classification, lowest cumulative

time over each stage of racing — to go for the overall win for the race. The team huddled together in a hotel room in Avon, over brownies, ice cream and Pedialyte, to devise a plan that would play to our strengths.

We decided every racer would animate the race with attacks during the circuits and try to create or get into a break. The plan worked and Heather rode with two others off the front for the final circuits, allowing the rest of us to sit comfortably in the peloton and not have to make any moves. This heroic effort earned Heather the VF Corporation Badass Rider jersey awarded for fearlessness, aggression and confidence.

The DNA Pro Cycling team continued with the plan of top-10 finishes in the final two stages in Golden and Denver, and Heather delivered on both. With average speeds of over 26 mph for 55- and 65-mile races respectively, it's safe to say that the race was fast and aggressive.

Amy Charity is a Steamboat Springs cycling all-star and member of the DNA Pro Cycling Team.

An 8th-grade look at the Colorado Classic

This past week, I had the opportunity to meet some of the professional female racers that came to town for the Colorado Classic stage race. This women-only race was inspiring, motivational and encouraging for me as a girl.

To see them get their own race at such a high level means that they are being taken seriously as athletes. They were friendly, open and encouraging as our team of girls from Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club Cycling Team decorated changing rooms and port-a-potties for them. We also got time to get autographs and present flowers on stage during the podium ceremonies at the end of the stage.

This made me think that I could someday be like them and succeed as a woman bike racer and athlete. Especially being the only girl on the junior racing team, seeing these women compete in an all-women's race shows me that I can do anything

SPOKE TALK



and not depend on anyone else to help me achieve my goals. It was a day I will never forget.

The experience of meeting the racers really came at a great time in my life as I grow and pursue my dreams of becoming a professional bike racer. Earlier this year, I felt inspired to participate in our local town series mountain bike races — Town Challenge.

After being bitten by the competition bug through Nordic skiing and playing soccer, I felt like it was time to give bike racing a try. My family has always ridden and raced bikes, and at a younger age, racing really didn't appeal to me. As I've gotten a little bit older, I've gotten better at understanding failure and what strength I can draw from those experiences.

Now, I'm in a place where I can put myself out there and not worry about the outcome so much. Being part of a team at SSWSC also helps as my teammates and coaches are encouraging — and they are going through some of the same worries that I have myself.

Once the series started, I got into a routine to prepare for race day. Previewing the course with my teammates gave me the confidence of knowing the course. Having my bike ready to go, and of course eating and drinking properly, all gave me peace of mind for a good race.

I'm looking forward to using what I learned during the biking season and taking that into Nordic ski racing, and even using my confidence as an athlete for my school work. The attitude of "I can do this" applies to much more than athletics.

Kelsey Cariveau is an eighth-grader Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club athlete.

Sailors' Henninger earns 2nd at Rifle

Shelby Reardon
Steamboat Pilot & Today

RIFLE — With a 79 on the day, Steamboat Springs High School senior Tommy Henninger finished second at the Rifle Bears Invitational at Rifle Creek Golf Course on Wednesday.

Henninger was one stroke off of leader Wolfgang Smith out of Rifle who shot for 78, six strokes over par. The Bears won the day with a team total of 256. The Sailors earned fourth with

PREP SPORTS BRIEF

a combined 263.

Sophomore Travis Seitz also cracked the top 10, taking sixth with an 85. Freshman Charlie Thompson was two swings out of the top 10, landing in 13th with an 89.

Senior Caleb Anderson earned 31st, senior Jack Thompson took 37th and freshman Colin Kagan finished 51st.

Rifle Bears Invitational at Rifle Creek Wednesday

Team scores: 1, Rifle 256. 2, Summit 260. 2, Coal Ridge 260. 4, Steamboat Springs 263. 5, Eagle Valley 264. 6, Battle Mountain 271. 7, Meeker 281. 8, Cedaredge 286. 9, Ouray 215. 10, Moffat County 290. 11, Delta 309.

Individual top 10: 1, Wolfgang Smith, Rifle, 78. 2, Tommy Henninger, Steamboat Springs, 79. 3, Ryan Kotz, Coal Ridge, 81. 4, Gunther Solvedt, Eagle Valley, 82. 5, Jackson True, Summit, 84. 6, Travis Seitz, Steamboat Springs, 85. 7, Freddy Aalto, Eagle Valley, 86. 7, David Andujio, Moffat County, 86. 7, Zach Carleton, Summit, 86. 10, PJ Kessenich, Battle Mountain, 87. 10, Ryley Cibula, Summit, 87.

Other Steamboat finishers: 13, Charlie Thompson 89. 31, Caleb Anderson 97. 37, Jack Thompson 99. 51, Colin Kagan 111.

SOCCER

From page 17

"Early in the season, starting with this weekend, we're able to get a lot of different looks from a lot of different players," Bohlmann said. "From there, you're able to really start putting together partnerships and groups and teams that not only speak the same language but speak it really fluently."

In the past, Kaster and Sam Brown have played endless minutes side by side at center back, but in order to spread out the talent, Bohlmann may split them up.

"I like Sam being in the back with me. I just feel more comfortable," Kaster said. "But if the coaches find he's more powerful up top, then I like that. That just means someone else will have to step up in the back."

Like Lopez, returning senior goaltender Juan Campoverde will join the team halfway through the season. Until then, sophomore Axel Kovach will spend most of the time in net. He played some games last season when Campoverde was nursing an injury.



SHELBY REARDON/STAFF

Members of the Steamboat Springs soccer team warm up ahead of a practice on Gardner Field.

"His urgency to mature was imminent, so he had that experience," Bohlmann said of Kovach.

With that in mind, Kovach will likely be the netminder when the season opens at home against Rifle at 11 a.m. Saturday.

The ultimate opponent, though, is Battle Mountain. The teams have a long, combative history that resulted in the Huskies downing the Sailors twice by a combined score of 10-3 last fall. On Sept. 24, Steamboat will travel

to Battle Mountain, and on Oct. 24, the Sailors will host the Tigers to close out the regular season.

"Every opponent is important, but Battle Mountain and Steamboat have a lot of history. They have really been the class of our league for a bit," Bohlmann said. "They'll be the team that everybody's chasing."

To reach Shelby Reardon, call 970-871-4253, email sreardon@SteamboatPilot.com or follow her on Twitter @ByShelbyReardon.

Recycle this newspaper.