



SHELBY REARDON/STAFF

Steamboat Springs High School junior lacrosse player Kellen Adams scores during a home game against Battle Mountain on Saturday afternoon. See more photos from the game at SteamboatPilot.com.

Lacrosse ends with win

Sailors boys' energetic 12-7 victory leaves seniors proud, hopeful for playoffs

Shelby Reardon
Steamboat Pilot & Today

Senior River King said the Steamboat Springs High School boys lacrosse team is like a diesel motor. It takes a while to warm up.

"We got to leave our glow plugs on," senior Ezra Moyer agreed.

All 11 seniors agreed slow starts are pretty typical for the team, so when the Sailors went down 4-1 early against Battle Mountain, no one was concerned. Once their engine was warm, the boys in red and white took off.

Starting with a late first-quarter goal from junior Kellen Adams, Steamboat scored seven straight goals to take an 8-4 lead. They rode that advantage all the way to a 12-7 win. Steamboat ends the regular season with a 7-3 record and a three-game win streak.

All of a sudden, the Huskies were barely holding the ball, and the Sailors were dominating. The team said that shift came because of the atmosphere at Gardner Field.

Senior Luke St. John said the crowd and the bench were loud, and it's hard

not to get pumped with people screaming at you. Senior Jackson Metzler loves the energy his teammates give him and the defense from the field and sidelines. Senior Jack Bube said King played a huge role in getting every Sailor "gassed up" in the huddles.

"We got really loud," King said. "And we got really excited about everything big and small, and that helps you grow momentum."

The Sailors really do get excited about everything. They notice the little things their teammates do, and they show their thanks and appreciation.

Senior Thomas Faunce was impressed with all the ground balls that were earned, while Moyer noted Reeves Kirby being unstoppable in the faceoff circle. Moyer and senior CJ Smith shouted out Kings' physical play in the crease and his relentless ability to keep the team's energy high. Senior Finn Russell was just happy to be a part of that energy for a full game after battling back from an injury.

"I thought it was crazy when Aidan made that goal. Then he got hit, and his helmet came off, and he got right back up," Bube said.

Story had one goal on the day from just to the left of the goal. He got slammed to the ground with a high check from an opponent, a hit that drew a three-minute unreleasable penalty against the Huskies. Adams earned a hat trick in Saturday's

win, while Hayden Magnuson and St. John added two each.

Steamboat's season started just like their games: not so great. The Sailors were 2-1, after the first week in the season, but were 6-1 the rest of the spring. The team thinks that trend is indicative of their growing chemistry and how close they've gotten over the short and jam-packed season.

"I'm really proud of just us as a team," senior Jack Becker said. "We started out not knowing each other super well, a bunch of younger guys, a bunch of new guys. We really came together and played really well throughout the last couple games."

Senior Ryan Hoffman said he's enjoyed watching the people around him grow up and get better and come together as a team, a team that went into the game on the edge of the playoff bubble. It's still unclear if their performance Saturday helped them. They'll find out Sunday if they will make the eight-team state bracket.

"Everyone came together, played really hard and talked," Story said. "This could have possibly been our last game, and we left it all out there if it was. Hopefully, it wasn't, but I'm happy with our team. We've gotten so much better through the year, and it's great to be a part of."

See full game results at [Steamboat Pilot.com](http://SteamboatPilot.com).



Spoke Talk

For the love of NPR trail

Tools were swinging and dust was flying Saturday on Emerald Mountain as NPR trail got some much-needed love from a group of enthusiastic volunteers. It was a sight to see with about 30 folks grubbing out vegetation, shaping berms and hauling heavy jugs of water to transform the dusty trail back to its original glory.

A major maintenance and rebuild project is underway on NPR and is scheduled to last about four weeks overall, having started in late May. The project has brought together a lot of people and has been a true testament to the power of collaboration.

After the city was turned down for grant funding to pay for a rebuild of the trail, a generous community donor approached the Yampa Valley Community Foundation and Routt County Riders about helping to fund the project. With additional dollars from Routt County Riders, the city of Steamboat Springs and the Trail Maintenance Endowment Fund, enough money was put together to contract Conservation Trails staff to lead the project.

Additional help has come from city staff as well as volunteers who are showing up almost daily to lend a hand. Nonprofits like Steamboat Springs Winter Sports Club and Rocky Mountain Youth Corps are also involved in the project. Trail work takes a village.

NPR was built in 2015 with Steamboat residents' 2A tax accommodation dollars as the first mountain bike-specific downhill trail on Emerald Mountain. Since then, it has become a local favorite on Emerald, offering a flow-filled ride down the mountain without worrying about uphill traffic. It has alleviated downhill bike traffic on other trails, helping to reduce user conflict on a busy trail system.

While yearly maintenance on NPR was completed in the past, 2020 was an especially rough season for all trails. With barely any rain, city budget cuts (due to COVID-19) and more use than ever as trail users ventured out, many local trails turned to powdery moon dust by the end of the summer. NPR has been due for a tuneup and is getting the attention it needs.

If you would like to be involved in the project, volunteers are welcome at the work site any day during the week. Please reach out beforehand and contact Routt County Riders at rcriders@routtcountyridders.org or Steamboat Springs Parks and Recreation at 970-879-4300 for more information.

Read the full column at [Steamboat Pilot.com](http://SteamboatPilot.com).

Jenny Carey is open space and trails supervisor for the city of Steamboat Springs.