

# Nordic team gears up for strong season

## USCSA

### Pre Season Coaches Poll

#### Cross-Country: Women's Top 5

Team	2003 Nationals Place
1. Univ. of Wyoming	(1)
2. Clarkson Univ.	(2)
3. U.S. Air Force Academy	(-)
4. Cornell Univ.	(4)
5. U.S. Military Academy	(3)

#### Cross-Country: Men's Top 5

Team	2003 Nationals Place
1. Clarkson Univ.	(1)
2. Univ. of Wyoming	(2)
3. U.S. Air Force Academy	(3)
4. Worcester Poly Tech	(7)
5. Mass. Institute of Tech.	(-)

Complete preseason polls  
available at [www.uscsa.com](http://www.uscsa.com)

Kelli Gruwell  
Branding Iron

The UW Nordic ski team will be hitting the snow this season with hopes of another successful season.

Last year, the Nordic ski team brought national recognition to UW by claiming the women's national championship while the men finished as national runners-up. This year, both teams are expected to finish as they did last year.

In a preseason USCSA coaches poll, the UW women's team is ranked first in the nation and the men's team second. Both of these teams will be returning All-American athletes from last year.

All six national qualifiers for the women will be back this year on the Cowgirl team. Jennifer Kinner, who won three individual national championships last year, will return. All-Americans Brooke Umphlett, Janelle Lore, Erika Edgely, Ava Bell and Bekah Smith will also be returning for the Cowgirls this year.

On the men's side, Riley Hopeman of Lander, who was the national runner-up in the 5 km race a year ago, and All-American Clayton Barrows of Laramie will be returning to the Cowboy team this year. Jordan Weller, a national qualifier a year ago, will also be back for the Cowboys.

The Nordic team is coached by UW alumni Christi Boggs, who was a member of the UW NCAA Nordic Ski Team from 1987 to 1992. While at UW, Boggs was first-team All-American three times and second-team All-American once. Joining Boggs as a coach is Rachel Watson, who was a varsity skier for Denver University NCAA Ski Team and former Colorado High School State Champion.

The cross-country team opened their season last weekend with a 5k race here in Laramie. Taking top honors for the men was Adam Alspach with a time of 16:03, and Sarah Conrad for the women with a time of 15:37. They will continue their season Saturday with the Devil's Thumb Salomon Series Race in Winter Park, Colo.