

UW women in contention for their third-straight national Nordic title

BY UW NEWS SERVICE

McCALL, Idaho — Despite being hit hard by the flu bug, the University of Wyoming women's Nordic team remains in contention for its third consecutive title at the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association National Championships.

The Cowgirls, who entered the final meet of the season ranked No. 1 in the nation, placed first in Tuesday's opening 1.5 kilometer (km) sprint race and were the national runners-up in the 15km freestyle race Wednesday.

The 8.5km classic race is scheduled for Friday. The national meet wraps up with a team relay race on Saturday.

The UW men finished second in both early races to St. Olaf College of Northfield, Minn.

"Everyone on our team had influenza last week except three women. Most of the team was barely well for the first race on Tuesday," said UW coach Christi Boggs, technology coordinator in the UW College of Education. "With that said, we're doing amazingly well considering that last Wednesday we didn't think that we'd even have three men to race."

During Tuesday's 1.5km race, UW's Erika Edgely, a senior from Lake Placid, N.Y., was the national runner-up, followed by Kristen Boroff, a senior from Pinedale. Her sister, freshman Kari Boroff, placed sixth; Christine Robinson a senior from Casper took 10th; Melissa Gangl, a sophomore from Casper was two places back, and in 13th was Laramie sophomore Ava Bell.

The Cowgirls recorded 11 points, followed by

St. Olaf with 18 and Cornell University was third with 24.

Kristen Boroff was crowned the 15km national champion to help boost the Cowgirls to second place overall. Kari Boroff placed sixth; Edgely 10th, Robinson 11th, Gangl 14th and Bell finished in 17th place.

St. Olaf won the team title with nine points, followed by UW with 17 and Clarkson University of Potsdam, N.Y. took third with 25 points.

In the men's opening race Tuesday, Riley Hopeman placed third and Joseph Howdysshell, both juniors from Lander, took seventh. Other UW men's results were Adam Alspach, a junior from Casper, 11th; Josh Peterson and Collin McRann, both Lander sophomores, placed 16th and 22nd, respectively; Brian Sebade, took 28th; and three places back was Ben Miller. Both are freshmen from Lander.

In the team standings, St. Olaf won the competition with 13 points, followed by UW with 21, and the Air Force Academy was third with 27.

In Wednesday's individual 15km competition, Howdysshell placed third; Hopeman took fourth; McRann 12th; Alspach 17th; Peterson 18th; Miller 26th; and Sebade 33rd.

Overall, St. Olaf won the team award for the second straight day with 15 points, edging the UW Cowboys by just three points. Clarkson University was third with 31.

"They are all skiing amazingly well considering that some of them had fevers of 102 degrees just a few days ago," Boggs said. "The women are still in the hunt for the overall national championship and the men are hoping for a great showing in Friday's race."