



Hopeman wins national ski race for UW

■ The former Tiger captured the national 8.5 kilometer race with a time of 22:03.7

The University of Wyoming Nordic ski teams' hopes of winning three straight United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSSA) national titles fell just four points short.

St. Olaf College of Northfield, Minn., a Division I varsity team that normally doesn't compete at the, USCSSA national meet, but rather at the more prestigious NCAA-sanctioned event, won the women's title, while the UW Cowgirls finished second in the season finale March 12, in McCall, Idaho. The UW Cowboys also finished second to the Minnesota school in the overall standings.

"It was an absolutely incredible nationals meet for us and we couldn't be more proud of our athletes," says UW coach Christy Boggs, technology coordinator in the UW College of Education.

Lander's Riley Hopeman captured the national 8.5 kilometer race on a course that Boggs called more of an ice skating rink because of the unusually warm temperatures the day before and the cool temperatures at night hardened the snow.

"The men would have had a real shot at winning, too, but influenza hit them the hardest and we did not have a healthy third man during the week," Boggs said. The team was hampered by the flu bug heading into the national meet.

Hopeman won the race, holding a 22-second lead against a Clarkson College (Potsdam, N.Y.) skier with a winning time of 22:03.7.

UW teammate Joe Howdyshell, also of Lander, finished in fifth position, while other Cowboy place winners were Adam Alspach, Casper, 11th; Collin McRann and Ben Miller in 15th and 16th, respectively; and Joshua Peterson and Brian Sebade 30th and 37th. All are from Lander.

Racing on the same course later in the day, the conditions turned to slush for the Cowgirls. Kristen Boroff of Pinedale was the national run-

ner-up in the final individual race of the national meet. She was followed by sister Kari Boroff in third place; Erika Edgley of Lake Placid, N.Y. in fourth; and Casper's Melissa Gangl in seventh. As a team, the Cowgirls finished first.

The final day of competition was a relay event, with teams of three athletes each completing a 5 km course.

The first two athletes use the classic stride and the third competitor uses the faster freestyle technique. The UW women's team of Kari Boroff, Edgley and Kristen Boroff finished second to the St. Olaf threesome. In the men's relay, Howdyshell, Alspach, and Hopeman were third.

Earlier in the week, Kristen Boroff won the women's national 15km race.

Six UW Nordic skiers earned Academic All-American honors. Receiving first team status were Kristen Boroff and Peterson. Second team honors went to Christine Robinson, Casper. Earning honorable mention were Gangl, Kari Boroff, and Laramie's Ava Bell.