

# Nordic Ski Team

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## UW Men's Ski Team Wins National Championship

March 13, 2006-- This is one bet assistant University of Wyoming coach Rachel Watson is glad to lose.

Four Years ago she told this season's UW men's team members that if they ever won the national title, she would let them shear her long locks. The Cowboys wouldn't let her forget that promise after they captured first place in the United States Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA) Championships in Sugarloaf, Maine.

By that evening, the UW assistant coach was sporting an outdated mullet haircut, which nearly matched the men who cut their hair earlier in the team's traditional mohawk style.

"The men have been working for this win for four years and they finally have it," said UW coach Christi Boggs, technology coordinator at the UW college of Education. "We couldn't be more proud of our athletes because they conducted themselves as true champions the entire week.

After winning two previous races earlier in the week, the UW men coasted in the final event, the 3x5 kilometer relay race finishing behind Cornell University. Cornell needed one other team to place higher than the Cowboys to win the overall national title, but UW used its depth to secure the team's first ever national title -- by only the narrowest of margins, a mere point.

UW finished the week with a team-low 62 points, just one point better than Cornell.



**Riley Hopeman, right, tags off to teammate Justin Daraie during the men's 3x5 relay race.**

Clarkson College (Potsdam, N.Y.) finished third with 100 points, followed by St. Olaf College (Northfield, Minn.) with 108 and the United States Military Academy had 213.

This victory marks the first time the men's team has captured this title. In addition, This year's nationals competition also is the first time the Cowboys have ever won a race as a team. The men succeeded in taking the 15 kilometer classic race, as well as, the 8.5 kilometer skate race.

The UW women's team, which has won the USCSA championship two of the past three seasons, finished in second place for the second consecutive season. St. Olaf won the women's national title with 52 points, 10 better than the UW Cowgirls. Clarkson College placed third with 103 points, Cornell had 125 points and the U.S. Military Academy 192.

"The women's team had an amazing run considering that most of them were in their first-ever national competition," Boggs said.

The UW women also finished second in the final 3x5 relay race behind St. Olaf.

Combined, the UW men's and women's teams earned nine individual Athletic All-American titles. In addition, 6 of Wyoming's 14 athletes earned Academic All-American honors.

UW women skiers receiving individual combined All-American status were Kari Boroff, Daniel, WY; Erin Hammer, Lander, WY; sisters Liz and Katie Turner, Chugiak, AK and Aubree Haffey, Pinedale, WY.

Receiving honors for the men's team were Justin Daraie, Casper, WY and Riley Hopeman, Joe Howdyshell and Josh Peterson, all of Lander, WY.

## Get your UW Ski Team Hat!

These hats are made by Swix and feature the UW Bucking Horse logo. They are available only to UW Ski Team members and Alumni. Hats are only \$25, this includes shipping in the US. To order your hat please email [uwski@uwyo.edu](mailto:uwski@uwyo.edu) or call Christi Boggs at 307-760-7150.

Be sure to include how many hats you would like and your shipping address.

There are only 30 of these hats available so hurry!





## From The Coaches

*Coaching is a labor of love.*

"Congratulations," he said

We both stood there staring somewhat blankly at him, trying to comprehend.

"No really, I mean congratulations. I wanted to tell you even before the results were posted because you two have some of the best kids out there. They are enthusiastic and sportsman-like and it's clear that you love them and they love you. It's a special group."

Pride swept through my body in a wave that I'm sure must have been evident on my face and I said, "Yes, it's magic."

Perhaps on that day so early in the week, we realized our athletes were already champions and that no set of results could change that. However, as is so often true, champions are hard to keep hidden.

The women's race was first and as all ten of them lined up at the start, I felt the familiar twang of anxiety. They were off! The two St. Olaf girls immediately moved to the front of the pack. The twins settled in right behind them with the rest of the women's field in tow. They rounded a sharp corner and disappeared into the trees. I had less than 3 minutes to wait and the first competitor emerged over the top of the hill. It was Lynn Dale, the Norwegian leader of St. Olaf's team. She was followed by one of her teammates but then, in a heated battle for fourth place came Liz. She was putting the move on a girl from Clarkson and was able to just edge her out for fourth place. Shortly after came Kari leading a pack of girls. Our women managed 4th, 6th, 8th and 10th.

Within only minutes after the women's race, the men lined up and took the stage. As the gun sounded I saw Riley and Justin move into the pack. Joe had a tough start in a race that would only get tougher. The third Cornell skier, knowing that he had to beat Joe to claim the team victory for the day would trip Joe three times. Joe would stagger in in 10th place behind his teammates Justin and Riley who placed 5th and 7th respectively.

Continued on the UIW homepage at:  
[http://www.uwyo.edu/ski/2006\\_synopsis.htm](http://www.uwyo.edu/ski/2006_synopsis.htm)

## Meet The Team

### Josh Peterson Student-Athlete Profile



Josh is a student-athlete from Lander, WY and is a Wildlife and Fisheries Biology and Management major in his third year. He has earned both Athletic and Academic All-American honors. Hunting, fishing, sitting on the couch eating potato chips, soccer and intramural sports are just a few of his main interests. Josh enjoys skiing like a glorious champion!



## UW Nordic Competes at NCAA Level

*UW's Nordic teams recently finished their first seasons as members of the Rocky Mountain Intercollegiate Ski Association(RMISA).*

Feb.1, 2006-- Using the early portion of the season to tuneup for the United States Collegiate Ski and Snowboard Association (USCSA) National Championships later this semester, the Wyoming Nordic ski teams competed in their final NCAA sanctioned meet last weekend at the University of Colorado Invitational held at Steamboat.

"It was the most successful NCAA race we've had to date. Two of our athletes broke into the top 30 in the field," said UW coach Christi Boggs.

A women's 5-kilometer and men's 10-km classic races were held Friday and a women's 15-K and men's 20-K skate took place on Saturday.

Lander, WY senior Riley Hopeman was 23rd among 50 starters in the 10-km classic and Kari Boroff, a Daniel, WY sophomore, placed 26th among 49 starters in the 5-km classic. Boroff was only eight seconds away from making the top 20, Boggs said. Boroff also had her best finish in the skate race with a 31st place showing.

Combining the overall men's and women's points, UW placed ninth in a field of 11 teams.

"We're excited because our athletes are starting to believe they can ski with these (NCAA) athletes and are showing it," said Boggs. "If our athletes can beat anyone, then it's a success since at least the top five athletes one every other team are on scholarship. Kari and Riley would be among the top three members of eight of the 11 teams, making it possible for them to qualify for the NCAA championships."

### Melissa Gangl Student-Athlete Profile



Melissa is a student-athlete from Casper, WY and is a Chemical Engineering major in her third year. She has earned both Athletic and Academic All-American honors. Spending time with her friends, doing homework, reading, Greek Life, Intramural sports, running, swimming and inner-tube water polo are some of her interests. Melissa loves to ski!

**Check the 2006 racing schedule and results at:**  
<http://www.uwyo.edu/ski/racing.html>

# Help the Team!

The University of Wyoming NCAA Ski Team was cut in 1993, much to the disappointment of a great many people. In September 1998, athletes from Casper, Wyoming started a nordic race club and by November Christi Boggs and Rachel Watson had taken on the job of volunteer coaching.

Despite the incredible success that has become the norm in the past few years and the fact that UW Nordic is now an associate member of RMISA, it is still considered a Club Sport at UW. As such, the team receives \$7000 per year in matching funds. \$7000 sounds like a great deal of money but entry fees for the races alone cost the team almost \$6000. This leaves very little money for wax and travel. Athletes on the team pay between \$60-\$100 in club dues as well as being responsible for providing all of their own equipment. There is no money for scholarships, the coaches are completely volunteer and routinely spend upwards of 40 hours week throughout the fall and winter training, organizing and providing support for the athletes at races.

In addition to Club Dues and buying all of their own equipment, Nordic Team members spend a great deal of time and effort raising money to match the Club Sports amount as well as transportation and housing at races. Last season, with the additional expense of the RMISA races, cost the team over \$30,000 to compete throughout the season. This amount was raised through extremely hard work and with the help of businesses and individuals who thought the team was worth helping.

For this coming season the Nordic Team is starting fund-raising early, hoping to raise the projected \$25,000 needed to compete at an elite level. The team works extremely hard to raise money; working parking and tickets at football games, selling Krispy Kreme donuts, leading ski trips for the Outdoor Adventure Program, hosting a high school summer camp, hosting a benefit dinner and race in addition to many other activities. Any additional help you might be able to provide would be greatly appreciated. These young athletes work extremely hard in school, on the trail and in raising money.

If you have any questions or ideas on how you could help us raise the \$25,000 needed for this season please feel free to contact us. We work closely with companies/individuals who help sponsor us with much needed equipment and clothing. We also have many athletes that are beginning and/or cannot afford equipment so donations of quality equipment is also extremely helpful. Anything you can do would be fantastic! To donate money to the team online please go to <http://www.uwyo.edu/ski/donations.htm> We can also be reached at [uwski@yahoo.com](mailto:uwski@yahoo.com) or by phone at 307-760-7150. You may also send a check with the enclosed donation form.

*Please consider helping to sponsor these exceptional athletes. They work extremely hard in the classroom, training year round, raising money and racing all over the nation.*

## In Appreciation Of Our Sponsors

*UW Nordic skiing would like to thank the following individuals, groups and companies. Without their generous support it would be impossible to train and race at the high level that is necessary to be competitive on a national collegiate level.*

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### Special Thanks

- Cross Country Connection
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- Medicine Bow Nordic Association

### Volunteer Support

- Medicine Bow Nordic Association
- Medicine Bow Nordic Ski Patrol

**Alumni, want to find old friends or just find out what's happening with the current team? Register for the UW Ski Team Alumni website! Just email [uwski@yahoo.com](mailto:uwski@yahoo.com) for an invitation to join this exciting online community!**



University of Wyoming Nordic ski team members take a break from their nationals competition to pose for a photo in Sugarloaf, Maine.

Be sure to check the recent news on our website:

<http://www.uwyo.edu/ski/news.html>

Alumni, be sure to update your information online at:

<http://uwacadweb.uwyo.edu/NORDICINFOalumni.asp>

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