



Photo by Nancy Persons

FAST START (above)—Sam Schmidt of the Nome Ski Team blasts out the gate in the biathlon race at the 23rd Annual Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships in Tanana. Despite breaking a ski during the race, Schmidt would go on to earn the bronze medal.

SKI MEISTER (right)—Sierra Corsetti of Unalakleet enters her second lap of the biathlon race at the Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships in Tanana. Corsetti won all three of the high school girls ski races and captured her second Ski Meister Award.



Photo by Rachel Steer

Conger makes history at Nordic ski championships

By WISA staff

Nearly 50 rural Alaskan skiers and biathletes negotiated spring snow conditions and a winding, challenging course in Tanana this past weekend while competing in the 23rd annual Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships.

Of the many outstanding performances produced by the athletes, one turned out to be record-breaking.

Nome's Emerson Conger won gold medals in the 9-kilometer ski race, the biathlon race, and had the fastest split in the team relays. His endeavors would help him lay claim to a third straight high school boys Ski Meister Award, the first in the history of rural state skiing and biathlon to do so.

Including a junior high Ski Meister Award earned as an eighth grader, Conger's 2010 Ski Meister Award was his fourth overall, tying him with Arnold Marks of Tanana, who first completed the feat in 1999. During his current run, Conger has won 12 consecutive Western Interior Championship races.

Conger's efforts were supported by Nome teammate, and first-time Western Interior Championships medalist, Sam Schmidt. Schmidt earned silver in the 9-kilometer race and, despite breaking his ski, a bronze in the biathlon.

The duo led the Nome team to their second straight high school boys' team title, becoming only the third team in Western Interior history to do so. Nome's streak still lags well behind

the seven straight won by White Mountain between 1997 and 2003.

White Mountain would go on to take second place, piloted by the bronze- and silver-medal performances of Asa Bergamaschi. Although rival competitors at this meet, Conger and Bergamaschi were teammates on the Team Alaska biathlon squad at last month's 2010 Arctic Winter Games in Grande Prairie, Alberta, Canada.

The team from Galena, led by Francis Katongan, took third place.

Also winning all three of her races was Sierra Corsetti, a home school student living in Unalakleet who raced as an independent. Corsetti skied away from the high school girls' competition to capture her sec-

ond Ski Meister Award.

Corsetti, also a 2010 Team Alaska Arctic Winter Games biathlon member, enjoyed a 5 1/2 minute margin in the biathlon over double-silver medalist Ana Lee Swanson, also of Unalakleet.

Teammates Caitlyn Tozier and Miranda Murphy (another 2010 Arctic Winter Games biathlete) traded bronze medal spots on the podium in the ski race and biathlon, respectively.

The pair would use a gold medal in the team relay to capture Nome's first high school girls' team trophy, outlasting the Nenana team, which was buoyed by Danny Fisher. Galena, led by Zoey Niksik, finished third.

While there was little drama in either of the high school Ski Meister

Awards, the same was not true for the junior high girls, whose division saw the deepest competition at the meet.

In one of the closest Ski Meister contests in Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships history, gold medal biathlete Aly Daniels of Unalakleet won her first Ski Meister Award by exploiting a nine-second advantage in her relay split on the final day of competition to edge Rosa Schimdt of Nome, the gold medalist in the 4.5-kilometer ski race.

Unalakleet took Daniels' results and utilized bronze-medal performances from sister Katie Daniels in the ski race, and from teammate Jonisha Wilson in the biathlon, to earn the third

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LEPC

Public Notice

ANNUAL NOTICE OF COMMUNITY RIGHT TO KNOW (CRTK) DATA

The State Emergency Response Commission (SERC) requires the Nome Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) by law in SARA Title III (42 U.S.C. 11044) to give public notice of the availability of Tier II reports submitted by local and regional organizations on hazardous substances and extremely hazardous substances that are in use or in storage.

The Tier II reports for 2009 are available for review. However, in the interest of public safety, access to the information is restricted until a full and complete background check is performed on the interested party. At this time, members of the public would be required to complete an application and have a background check performed before any information can be released.

The Nome LEPC meets approximately 6 or more times a year. Meetings are open to the public and the public is welcome to attend. Notices are posted on public bulletin boards and at City Hall one week before the meeting and will be announced by radio and newspaper. If you have any questions, please call the City of Nome Emergency Services Administrator/LEPC Coordinator at 443-7824. This notice is paid for by Local Emergency Planning Committee Grant, State of Alaska.