



SEASON FINALES

Junior Olympics for the J4 Class

Ausblick had 7 athletes at this top USSA event at Crested Butte, CO. They were: Girls – Kristy Cardinal, Kristy Furlong, Kristy Ludwig, and Julia Wong; Boys – Eric Andersen, Tyler Bence, and Tyler Hegwood. By all accounts it was a lot of fun, great skiing and Ausblick was the “happening team”. Coach Wong said that many coaches from many other teams commented on the spirit, enthusiasm and dedication of our young athletes. Highlights included Top 15 finishes for Eric Andersen, Julia Wong, and Kristy Cardinal. Eric was 3rd overall (see article on page 8) and Julia was the top first year Class 4 racer, with a 4th place overall finish. Keep your eyes on her next season!



Eric Anderson carving a clean arc



Julia Wong, low and very fast



Kristy Cardinal catch some air



Kristy Ludwig looking for speed



The cheering section



Tyler Bence



Tyler Hegwood in Super G



AUSBLICK RACER AGAIN TOPS IN THE WORLD!

For the second year in a row, an Ausblick J4 Boy earned first place on Team USA at the Whistler International Children's Race. Eric Andersen followed in Cameron Bence's boots by first qualifying for this very prestigious event and then being number one in the time trials. This was just the start of Eric's fantastic week in Canada.

How Did Eric Get There?

Eric's Region II and Central Division ski racing this season left no doubt he was on his way to the Junior Olympics. He had first place finishes in the majority of his regular season USSA races. So he headed off to the Rocky/Central Junior Olympics with many expectations and hopes riding on his shoulders.

At Crested Butte, Eric skied better than most, but not up to his own standards. Still, he earned a 2nd in GS and 4th in Slalom and was tied with two other boys for 3rd overall. Since only the top three get invited to Whistler, that tie had to be broken. That's where the great attitude and training provided by Ausblick came into play. Each of the three tied boys had taken a fall but the other two apparently shrugged their



Eric Andersen, skiing like A Beast

shoulders and skied on down with a DNF, knowing they were out of the medals hunt. But Eric did what all Ausblick racers should do – he hiked back up and re-ran the gate, taking a 27th place. While this run put him out of the medals, his completing the run is what gave him the tie-breaker – and he was off to Whistler!

What Happened in Canada?

At Whistler, Eric joined a team of 8 other top US boys (three from the Eastern and Western JO's – plus the two others from Rocky/Central) and trained with US Development Ski Team coaches. He stayed in a condo with four other boys and they had to get themselves and their gear out to the chairlift every morning by 7. Then they skied hard until early afternoon when Eric's dad, Carstenn, got to spend about an hour with

Eric – “just enough time to have ice cream together”! Then Eric headed off to tune his skis with the US Ski Team Technician (“she’s done Tommy Moe’s and Picabo Street’s skis – she really knows what she’s doing”) and then review videos of his skiing with the coaches.



Finally - the Races!

After 4 days of training and time trials, where Eric was 1st in the U. S. in GS and 3rd in Slalom, making him first overall, it was time for the International Race.

Top J4 athletes from 20 nations were there, including Austria, Italy, Switzerland, Norway, and Japan. Eric was seeded first for the U. S. Poor early run ski conditions hampered Eric and most of the other top seeds, so his 19th place finish in GS was a disappointment. But still a great result against the



A very focused Eric

world's 60 top ski racers. The night before the last day of racing, Eric was given attitudinal advice he'll never forget. "Go out there and simply be a beast – beast it out all the way down", said the U. S. Ski Team coach. Eric's first Slalom run resulted in a tie for 5th place. Again, the coach said, "Be a beast". So Eric really turned it on and took 1st in the second run by such a margin that he ended up with a combined time that captured the Silver – and nearly the Gold (only 0.06 seconds away). Congratulations on a phenomenal finish, with all the pressure on, to Ausblick's Eric The Beast.

Thoughts from Race Program Director, Bill Wong

Ausblick's having the top American racer in J4 two years in a row "doesn't happen by accident". It's an accomplishment that every person on the team can take some credit for. In the past couple years "the kids have really come together, the parents have really come together, and the coaching staff and philosophies have really come together". Eric has a "tremendous amount of commitment and he just *really* loves to ski race". A specific attribute of Eric's that really stands out is that he "always sets goals – and sets high ones. Then he reaches them and sets even higher goals, so he's always surpassing his original goals." Eric echoes this in giving advice to younger team members. He says "set high goals and always believe you can do it".

HIGH SCHOOL RACING: A UNIQUE TRIP TO NATIONALS

BY NIKI LUDWIG

I knew this trip would be full of surprises, but I had no idea it would be like this. It started out by leaving Brookfield Square on a rainy Wednesday night at 8pm. Thus began my 16-hour movie-marathon bus ride to Mt. Snow in Vermont.

Once we arrived, we slept. Friday we were up for breakfast at 7 and on the mountain to begin slalom training at 9. We trained all morning on one course because snow conditions were awful. Coach Bill Patza decided not to hold Giant Slalom training that afternoon because he did not want to risk any racers getting injured in such poor conditions.

Saturday morning we were again up for breakfast at 7 and ready for Slalom inspection at 8:15. It was raining, then snowing, then sleet and snowing again. Not the ideal racing conditions, but Team Wisconsin still made sure we had a great time, especially the Wisconsin girls. The spectators always knew who was a Wisconsin girl when we were on course (this was due to some of the "fun" attire we wore, and if you need more details ask me). We finished our two runs with strong finishes. Saturday night we were supposed to attend a banquet at Haystack. However, because of the huge amount of snowfall the bus could not make it up the hill. We all felt like we were in "The Shining" because Coach Bill reminded us of Jack Nicholson and we were stranded in our hotel.

Sunday morning we were up for the last time at 7 for breakfast expecting it to be a normal race day. That didn't happen. My roommates and I were just about ready to head out for our 8:15 GS inspection when we got a call from Coach Bill saying the race was delayed until noon. It turns out that the snow and ice we had been getting for the past 24 hours built up a nice layer of ice on the chairlift and the course. I went back to bed, and got up in time to check out of my room at 10:30. As time went on the conditions were getting worse and the visibility was almost gone. My teammates and I ate lunch and hurried into the lobby for a team meeting. There we learned that the race was canceled due to the weather and snow conditions.

Despite the weather and snow conditions the Wisconsin teams did an outstanding job. The Wisconsin girls finished 2nd next to Vermont and Justin Bence helped the Wisconsin boys ski to a great 3rd.



CELEBRATING THE SEASON!

Bring on the music, bring on the food, bring on the medals and trophies and bring on the fun!

That's what happened on April 9 at the hill. Every Ausblick racer who participated in at least one WJR race raced down the aisle surrounded by chants to receive a trophy or medal recognizing his or her accomplishments. In addition to all the individual performance awards, special awards were given for the WJR, High School and USSA programs.

Special Achievement Awards

Top New Boy Racer	Scott Filipak
Top New Girl Racer	Carolyn Krech
Most Improved WJR 1 – 4 Boy	Bradley Paprocki
Most Improved WJR 1 – 4 Girl	Kelly Muenzenberger
Most Improved WJR 5 – 6 Boy	Tim Rogers
Most Improved WJR 5 – 6 Girl	Nikki Nourse
Outstanding WJR 1 – 4 Boy	J. P. Burkwald
Outstanding WJR 1 - 4 Girl	Kristy Ludwig
Outstanding WJR 5 – 6 Boy	Alex Jerred
Outstanding WJR 5 – 6 Girl	Liz Millman, Madeline Schroeder
Perfect Point Season	Jamie Baker, Kristy Ludwig, Liz Millman
Outstanding USSA Boy	Jonathon Schmidt
Outstanding USSA Girl	Chelsey Bence
Outstanding HS Boy	Justin Bence
Outstanding HS Girl	Niki Ludwig
Most Improved USSA Boy	Tyler Hegwood
Most Improved USSA Girl	Hillary Meyers
Most Improved HS Boy	Adam Siefert, Aaron Hunt
Most Improved HS Girl	Jamie Baker

New this year – a special award was created and named in for recognition of Dennis Evinrude, Hill Manager. Dennis was presented with a crystal trophy representing outstanding service to the team, above and beyond the call of duty. Rick

Ludwig was then named as the first recipient of the Dennis Evinrude Award, the team's highest tribute for exemplary service. Rick has served and continues to serve the team in countless ways, not only as team treasurer, but with many other services and support – much of it behind the scenes.

A big thanks to Dave and Lisa Young and Bob and Julie Johnson for organizing this great end-of-season party!



Coach Bill with Eric Anderson



Perfect Pointers Jamie, Kristy and Liz



Mike Schroeder and Coach Bill with the WJR trophy