

## Air Academy Mountain Bike Team Takes Second in the Regional Final and Series

The Air Academy Mountain bike team pulled off another second place with very exciting racing at the Colorado High School Crystal Regional Final in Eagle, Colorado. This cemented their place as second overall in the Regional Series. Air Academy led Colorado Rocky Mountain High School with a tally of 4,803 points to CRMS's 4,705 going into the last races of the day; Varsity Boys and Varsity Girls. AA had no riders in these categories and at the end of the day had to settle for second as CRMS gained additional points and ended the day with 5,090. It was an exciting day with several very close finishes and AAHS achieving three individual first places and several top finishes in every category.



*Roaring Fork, CRMS, and Air Academy Regional Finals Podium 2022*

**The JV Boys** started the day with one of the many exciting races of the day. Air Academy Austin Leigh and Crested Butte's Finn Veit battled wheel to wheel from start to finish, with Austin taking the sprint for the win. JT Graybeal followed in 12<sup>th</sup> while Carson Pevoteux with his best race ever finished 21<sup>st</sup>. Team Captain Reed McAfee crashed early in the race, tearing the ligaments that attach his thumb to his hand, but showed incredible grit by finishing the race coming in at 25<sup>th</sup>. Unfortunately, this injury requires surgery and Reed will not be able to race at State. Eli Considine was next, at 35<sup>th</sup>, thus securing his spot for the State Championships. Isaak Sanders and Cian Greer both in only their second race, finished 58<sup>th</sup> and 99<sup>th</sup> respectively.



*Austin takes the Win in a Sprint Finish*



*Reed McAfee Toughing it out after tearing ligaments*





*Cian Greer leading Cheyenne Mountain and Columbine riders*

**The JV Girls** turned out to be another exciting race as AAHS riders Avery Harris and Raegan Agrimson separated themselves from the field early on and rode together from start to finish. This race also came to a sprint finish with Avery just edging out Raegan. Both Raegan and Avery were three minutes ahead of the third-place rider from CRMS.



*Avery and Raegan riding away from the field*



*Sprint Finish between Teammates!*

**Our lone Freshmen Girl**, Kylie Moerk came into this race on fire. Kylie along with Highlands Ranch and CRMS riders separated themselves from the field completing the first lap together. On the second lap, Kylie was able to make her move on the final climb taking the win by 11 seconds.



*Freshmen Girls heading out on first lap with Kylie in 2nd position*





*Kylie Moerk dueling for the win*

**The Freshmen Boys** were next with five entries taking four of the top 18 places. Ben (Zim) Reichart led the way in 4<sup>th</sup> place, while Jacob Webber just missed the podium in 6<sup>th</sup>, Keenan Swanson 8<sup>th</sup>, Cooper Markley 12<sup>th</sup> and Mack Galliard 18<sup>th</sup>. Creed Anderson started his first race after a long sickness and moved from the 66<sup>th</sup> starting position to 52!



*Keenan Swanson, letting it rip!*



*Creed Anderson back on the bike in his first race*

The final race of the day for Air Academy featured the Sophomore boys. Trevor Kornmesser led the way in a very competitive race finishing in 6<sup>th</sup>. Keegan Hale made the top 20 in 15<sup>th</sup> with Boaz (Bo) Gallart following in 28<sup>th</sup>, Lawrence (Eli) Rawe 32<sup>nd</sup>, Simeon Scheid 51<sup>st</sup>, and Aslan Rivenburg 84<sup>th</sup>.



*Bo Gallart descending in a crowd*





*Trevor Kornmesser Hammering the Single Track*

## Summary

It's been an incredible season with the Air Academy Team far exceeding expectations. This team take team captain Reed McAfee's "Dig Deep" to heart at every practice and every race. This drive, commitment, hard work, and mindset resulted in a second place overall in the region despite not fielding riders in key categories. Additionally, 17 of the 22 team racers qualified for the State Championships! Go Team! Dig Deep!



*Future Air Academy Mountain Bike Racer!*