

Air Academy Awarded “Team of the Year” at the Colorado High School Mountain Bike State Championships

“Electric. Inspiring. Authentic. Fun. Love. Those words describe the atmosphere at the [Colorado High School Cycling League](#) Championship this past weekend in Glenwood Springs at the [Colorado Mountain College campus](#).”, Bill Plock ([303 Endurance](#)).

What a weekend! The crowds were amazing, the racing was fierce, and it was said by some that this must be one of the best events in all High School sports. That’s a huge claim, but I’d be hard pressed to find an event to dispute it.

86 of 94 Teams in the Colorado High School League qualified racers for the State Championships. Air Academy qualified 17 of 21 racers which was among the highest percentage of qualifiers for a team in the state.

The Freshmen Boys were first off with temps in the mid 30s and a field of 146. The course was easily the most technically challenging of the year. A combination of rough, rocky double and single track with approximately 570 feet of climbing and descending per lap. Ben (Zim) Reichart was in the mix at the front battling with the top 15 as they rounded the first lap, then went on to finish in the top ten at 9th place.



Zim Reichart Racing to a Top 10 State Champion Finish

Jacob Weber was also in the mix but crashed about halfway through the first lap dropping back to almost 90th. He then scorched the course through the second lap passing approximately 40 racers to finish 47th. Cooper Markley had possibly his best race of the season stepping it up after Jacob’s crash and coming through in 24th. Keenan Swanson and Mack Galliant rounded out the AA freshmen finishing in 41st and 50th respectively. All five of our freshmen finished in the top third of a stacked field!



Mack Galliard and Jacob Weber in a Crowd

The JV Boys in a field of 152, attacked the course next. Freshmen Austin Leigh had a second row starting position but was knocked into the crowd at the start. This dropped him back more than a dozen places behind the fastest JV riders in the state. Austin dug deep and somehow caught up to the lead rider from Crested Butte by the second lap. Austin and the Crested Butte rider went head-to-head opening a gap on the rest of the field. The Crested Butte rider eventually opened a gap as Austin simply burnt too many matches playing catch up throughout the first lap. Austin held on to finish second.



Austin Climbs to 2nd Place at start of 2nd Lap

JT Graybeal was next in 80th place, Eli Considine 119th and Carson Pevoteaux riding with a painful injury he sustained while pre-riding the course came in at 136.



JT Leading Durango Rider through the Corners



Carson Pevoteaux Riding through the pain

Avery Harris and Raegan Agrimson represented Air Academy JV Girls in a field of 115 JV girl racers! The front of the race spread out quickly as Avery and Raegan battled to stay within the point of the spear. It was fierce racing with some very fast girls. Both Avery and Raegan “dug deep”, both finishing in the top ten with Avery coming in 4th and Raegan 7th.



Raegan Railing the Descent!



Avery Launches

Sophomore and Freshmen girls were next. Our lone Freshman girl, Kylie Moerk had her work cut out for her. In a field of 68 Freshmen Girls there were several girls from the three other regions that had some very impressive resumes. Kylie was in the mix throughout and left everything out on the course sprinting to the finish line with her Crystal Region rival for 13th place. We have no Sophomore girls so scored no points in that category.



Kylie the lone Freshman doing Air Academy Proud

The Sophomore boys race started off almost disastrously, as our highest positioned rider, Trevor Kornmesser, broke his chain only a few meters into the race. Trevor in the spirit of the team motto “Dig Deep” and “Don’t Quit” preceded to run the whole race. Coach Tom Turney was able to get to a check point, remove the chain from his bike and give it to Trevor. Although dead last by several minutes, Trevor scorched the course moving from 153rd to 109th. A five-minute penalty was added for accepting outside assistance which regulated him to 141st place. Trevor truly exemplified Air Academy’s “Dig Deep” mindset.



Trevor making up time & barely escaping a crash

In the meantime, Keegan Hale stepped it up to fill the gap having possibly his best race of the year coming in at 34th with Lawrence (Eli) Rawe at 66 and Boaz (Bo) Galliard at 72nd.



Bo railing the corners

At this point, Air Academy was in 3rd place of the 29 Division II schools in the state championships. However, the Varsity races were yet to come. As mentioned in previous reports, Air Academy has no varsity racers this year. With no points in the boys or girls' varsity races Air Academy dropped to 6th.

At the awards ceremony, to our complete surprise, Air Academy was awarded the "Division II Team of the Year". This was due to a combination of enthusiasm and team spirit at the races, competitiveness, being among the highest percentage of riders that qualified for State, and volunteer work both at the races and locally in Colorado Springs. This is the highest honor that can be bestowed upon a team and reflects upon the sportsmanship, enthusiasm, integrity, and dedication of the parents, coaches, and particularly, the students. This team proudly and positively represents Air Academy High School in the Colorado High School Cycling League.

Finally, for a short video of the State Championship highlights, [check out this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgDQxnsyZGs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FgDQxnsyZGs)

There are several shots of Air Academy racers, however you must watch very closely as they are going so fast, they are easily missed!



Air Academy High School Division II Team of the Year (With Div 1 & 3 Teams)