

Air Academy MTB Team Leads the way at the Colorado High School MTB League Spring Valley Scrabble in Glenwood Springs



AAHS MTB pulled together a genuine team effort in Glenwood Springs to take first place in not only the race, but the spirit competition (temporary tattoo Contest), and logged the most volunteer hours of any team in the region. AAHS also displayed their depth as sickness, crashes, and mechanicals affected the placement of key riders as the sophomore and Freshmen riders stepped it up and filled the gaps, resulting in AAHS taking the top spot for the second time in as many races.

The Freshmen Boys began the day with 55 racers on the start line. Jackson Lorigan, Ethan Allen, Jacob (Jake) Lane, and Alex Winslow represented AAHS with Jackson leading the charge, finishing in 12th place with enough points to score in the overall team standing. Ethan was just behind in 15th, while Jake finished in 27th and Alex 37th. Jackson, Ethan, and Jake all improved upon their placing in Frisco, with Jake moving up 10 spots!



Alex Winslow in the Heat of Battle



Jake in the Hunt



Ethan Kicking up the Dust



Jackson and Ethan threading the Singletrack

Our lone JV Girl, sophomore Kylie Moerk was next, racing in a field of 27. The first lap saw a three-way battle at the front with Kylie pulling away and eventually crossing the line in first, almost 2 minutes ahead of second and 5 minutes ahead of third. This win combined with Frisco's second place establishes Kylie as the Colorado Crystal Region points leader!



Three-way battle early on



But Kylie pulls away and finishes Strong!

The Varsity boys went into the race missing Trevor Kornmesser and team captain Reed McAfee sick. The race began with Austin Lee sprinting off with an incredibly fast start. Two riders were able to stay with him. Austin crashed halfway through the first lap and lost contact with the two leaders but held on to finish third. Reed, racing sick, dug deep, and managed to scratch out 28th place while Carson Pevoteaux rounded our varsity boys at out at 35th.



Austin looking for his bottle in the Feedzone



Carson flying down the Singletrack



1Reed railing a corner

The varsity boys were followed by the **varsity girls**. Avery Harris, the lone AAHS varsity girl competed in a stacked field of 15. After a super-fast start, two girls (Columbine & Mountain Vista High Schools) were off the front with Avery in third. The race pretty much remained that way with Avery caught in “no woman’s land” between 2nd and 4th, holding that position to the end, finishing third.



Avery quick grab of water and gel through the feedzone



Never Give Up!

The AAHS Sophomore boys really stepped it up and filled in the gaps. Jacob Weber, Cooper (Coop) Markley and Keenan Swanson placed 2nd, 4th, and 11th, in a field of 59, helping to secure enough points to for the overall team victory. Jack Falender, who like Reed McAfee, was sick and almost didn't start. He still managed to finish 13th which also was enough points to keep the team in first had another gap needed to be filled. Logan Lints and Creed Anderson rounded out the sophomore boys with 39th and 41st place respectively.



Jacob Weber takes 2nd Place just ahead of 3rd



Keenan Swanson Ripping the Corners



Coop ecstatic at 4th spot!



Logan Lints Digging Deep



Creed Anderson "Gettin er Done"!



Jack Falender Hanging Tough

Finally, the JV Boys were on the line. The last race of the day, and a major determinant of our final standing. In a field of 101 racers, Ben (Zim) Reichart, started as the regional points leader and maintained that title after taking the win by seven seconds. Keegan Hale followed shortly after in 3rd and Lawrence (Eli) Rawe had a great race finishing 17th. Braun Deighton flatted early in first lap and rode the whole lap on a flat. He switched wheels and continued his second lap and somehow managed finished ahead of almost 20 riders. Simeon Scheid was having great race finishing the first lap in the top 20, flatted on the second lap, then ran with his bike to the finish and still made 87th place. Huge congratulations to Braun and Simeon for not quitting and doing whatever it takes to cross that finish line.



Keegan Hale Finish 3rd with a "Wheelie"



Braun Deighton Coming through the Feedzone with a Flat



Keegan and Zim Leading the Race Early On



Simeon (Sim)Scheid gets a great Start!



Lawrence (Eli) Rawe in a tight battle



Zim in the Points Leader Jersey, Leading the Race

This was another magical weekend made possible by a full team effort that includes parents, coaches, and students. Air Academy was at the top in every aspect. Parents, coaches, and students combined resources and worked the most volunteer hours of any other team. We worked together to win the spirit contest with the most creative tattoos and enthusiastic participation. And finally, the students raced their hearts out, overcoming sickness, crashes, and mechanical failures resulting in every team member not only finishing their race, but taking the team title as well. We are looking forward to race number three "The Cloud City Challenge" on Saturday, September 23, in Leadville, Colorado. Go Air Academy!

