

Air Academy MTB Team Wins the Colorado High School MTB League “Cloud City Challenge” in Leadville Colorado



Air Academy takes Front and Center Podium Spot

The AAHS MTB did again this past weekend by winning the Cloud City Challenge in Leadville, Colorado. With the race taking place at over 10,000 feet, the Team showed its depth, resilience, and lung capacity by taking the first spot despite a flat tire and other mishaps.

JV Boys

A large field of 111 JV Boys began the day with a very 28 degrees F early morning high altitude start. At the front, from the start to finish, a three-way battle between Air Academy’s Keegan Hale, Benjamin (Zim) Reichart, and Jack Higley of Thunder Ridge High School raged. Each lap of the six-mile course saw them wheel to wheel with Higley taking the win just ahead of Keegan and Zim. Braun Deighton was close behind finishing 13th, Lawrence (Eli) Rawe 16th, and Simeon Scheid 22nd. In a field of 111 racers, all five of the AAHS JV boys finished in the top 20%. Zim held on to the points leader jersey and continues to hold the overall lead in the JV Boys category.



JV Boys Crazy Fast Start

Freshmen Boys

The Freshman Boys were next on the line with Jackson Lorigan leading the team finishing in 12th place, with Ethan Allen just a couple minutes behind in 23rd, Jacob Lane hammering out 33rd and Alex Winslow rounding out the team in 40th place.



Jackson Looking to Pass in the Singletrack



Ethan Making Time on the Descent



Jake Having Fun in the Woods



Alex Rips the Corner

JV Girls

The JV Girls race, in a field of 27, came down to a two-way battle for first with Air Academy's Sophomore Kylie Moerk dueling with Thunder Ridge's Senior Alba Costa. Kylie was able to hold the wheel of the Thunder Ridge rider well into the second lap but eventually fell back to finish just 40 seconds off the lead. Kylie is the current series points leader, and still maintains the overall lead with one race left in the series.



JV Girls Start with Kylie in the Points Leader Jersey

Varsity Boys

The Varsity Boys were fast and furious as always. Three six-mile laps of climbing and rough singletrack make this a long difficult race. The first of the three laps saw Air Academy's Austin

Leigh in a tight four-way race at the front. Only two seconds separated the four. By the second lap, Austin and Crested Butte's Finn Veit opened up a 30 second lead on the rest of the field. It came down to a tight finish with Finn opening seven seconds on Austin for the win. Trevor Kornmesser was the next Academy rider finishing in a very fast 13th place. Carson Pevoteaux followed with his best race of the year at 24th, and Team Captain Reed McAfee rounding out the team at 27th.



Austin Front Row of a Very Fast Varsity Boys Starting Line



Trevor Having a Little Fun



Reed McAfee Fully Focused



Carson Best Finish Yet!



Austin Puttin the Hammer Down

Varsity Girls

Avery Harris got off to a great start and was in the mix with the lead group. However, she suffered a flat rear tire on the first of three laps and ran into complications fixing it. By the time she was able to get going again, she was in dead last by a wide margin. This did not deter her and she raced hard and clawed her way back to the main pack finishing in 12th place.



Avery Getting Off on a Great Start Varsity Girls

Sophomore Boys

Last but definitely not least came the Sophomore Boys. They rocked it with three of five finishing on the podium. Cooper (Coop) Markley led the Air Academy finishing in 3rd place with

Jacob Weber and Keenan Swanson coming right behind in 4th and 5th to secure Air Academy's overall win for the weekend. Creed Anderson and Logan Lints finished the day in 40th and 50th place respectively.



Creed Anderson Topping out on a Steep Climb



Coop Digging Deep!



Jacob and Keenan finishing 4th and 5th



Logan Lints Finishing Strong

Air Academy again showed their Grit and determination at the Leadville Cloud City Challenge. Although the weather later in the day was a pleasant 70 degrees, the JV Boys who were first to race conducted their warmup up in 28 degrees F. Tough kids, not a single complaint, just excited to get the race underway. Air Academy goes into the Regional Championships next week as the Division Points leader after three races and three first places. We are revved and ready to go for the Crystal Regional Championships in Eagle Colorado next week. **Go Air Academy – Dig Deep!**