

Air Academy Mountain Bike Team Wins Division 1 Colorado High School Mountain Bike League “Haymaker Classic” in Eagle, Colorado



The Air Academy Mountain Bike Team traveled to Eagle Colorado for the second of four regional races in the Colorado High School Mountain Bike League series. Air Academy displayed their depth when two of the higher varsity point scorers were taken out of the equation. The Team stepped it up to fill in the gaps resulting in another division 1 win for Air Academy! In individual categories, Air Academy took first place in varsity boys, JV boys, and freshmen boys with many of the team riders finishing in the top 10.

Sophomore Boys: The day started bright and early with the Sophomore boys completing two 6+ mile laps on a fast, dusty course. Although, the course was fast, there were a plethora of crashes by all teams throughout the day. Jackson Lorigan led the way finishing 13th of 64 despite a hard crash that left him with a sore back and mild concussion. Jacob Lane in a sprint finish came right behind at 14th, with Alex Winslow 38th, and Luke Pajak in his second race ever, 42nd.



Jackson and Jake in a Sprint Finish



Alex and Luke Hit the Singletrack Together



Luke Starting a Descent



Jackson Coming Out of the Woods

JV Boys: JV Boys were next. The JV boys' field was the biggest with 108 riders on the start line. Freshman Justin Tremblay who raced in the freshmen category at Leadville was moved to JV at Eagle. Justin, in a back-and-forth battle with Temple Robertson of Crested Butte, showed he belonged in JV crossing the finish line first just nine seconds ahead of Temple. Both crashed at least once during the race but quickly recovered and were back in the mix. Creed Anderson finished in the top end of the field at 22nd, with Charley Weitz and Conner Petrzak, in their second ever race, at 74th and 79th.



Justin Ripping the Corner on His way to 1st Place



Creed Entering the "Corkscrew"



Charley Weitz Leading a Group on the Descent



Conner Petrzak Letting it Fly

Varsity Boys: The varsity boys, as always, is an amazing race to watch. These are 50 of the fastest mountain bikers in the state and among the best in the country. Junior Austin Leigh led the way for Air Academy holding third place at the end of the first lap, one second behind Tanner Beetge of Rock Canyon and Oliver Rutberg of Cheyenne Mountain. Austin moved into 1st place with a 4 second gap by the end of the second lap then put the hammer down on the third lap to win by over a minute. Junior Zim Reichart was just behind, coming in at 6th place. Trevor Kornmesser was next at 15th getting three of our varsity riders in the top 20. Junior Jacob Weber 22nd and Junior Cooper Markely 30th. Senior Keegan Hale, normally a top 10 finisher, crashed hard and despite his injuries, made it to the finish line in a very respectable 32nd place. Junior Keenan Swanson had his best race so far, coming in just behind Keegan at 33rd. Lawrence (Eli) Rawe finished 35th, Braun Deighton in his first race since breaking his wrist, was just behind Eli at 39th, followed by Simeon Scheid 43rd.



Jacob Weber, Simeon Scheid, Trevor Kornmesser, Braun Deighton, Keenan Swanson, Eli Rawe Stage for the Varsity Race



Austin Leigh Take the Win Wearing the Regional Leaders Jersey

Varsity Girls: The varsity girls race got off to a very fast start with Laura Carlin of Highlands Ranch and Ella Kearney of Columbine opening over a minute gap on Air Academy riders Junior Kylie Moerk and Senior Avery Harris by the end of the first lap. Both Kylie and Avery paced their selves well as they slowly closed the gap. Avery had the fastest third lap of the four to finish third, less than a minute from first place. Kylie came in just behind Avery in fourth. Junior Maddie Mager worked her way up from 11th at the end of the first lap, passing three riders over the next two laps to finish 8th. Again, all our varsity girls finished in the top 10!



Avery Rockin the Descent



Kylie Water Bottle Exchange



Maddie Railing the Corners

JV Girls: Sandrine Tremblay our lone JV girl had quite the battle in an exciting race where throughout, 6th – 10th place was only separated by seconds. Sandrine was able to snap the rubber band in the hills and finish 6th in a field of 32. Another top 10 finish for Sandrine!



Sandrine Breaks away in the Hills

Sophomore Girls: Nora Bots and Georgia Swanson represented Air Academy in the Girls Sophomore category. Nora covered the two laps in one hour and 13 minutes to finish 8th in a tight race. Georgia Swanson finished in the top 20 at 16th. This was both Nora and Georgia's second race ever and they killed it!



Nora Leading Cheyenne Mountain and Salida



Georgia Always Smiling when on her Bike!

Freshmen Girls: The freshmen girls' race was very exciting with all three of our girls finishing in the top 10! Just a little over a minute separated places 2nd through 5th with Ruby Harris crossing the line in 4th and Elora Walkup 5th. Katelyn Markley rounded out the team scoring by finishing 8th.



Ruby Laying Down the Hammer



Elora Scorching a Descent



Katlyn Powering the Single Track

Freshmen Boys: Last but certainly not least came the Freshmen Boys. Due to an incoming storm, the freshmen boys' race was reduced to one lap. This made it fast and furious right from the start. Dylan Hudson mixed it up with riders from Crested Butte and Taos Composite, separating themselves from the rest of the field. On the last climb Dylan made his move and crossed the line 12 seconds ahead of Nate Taylor of Crested Butte for the win. Chase McAfee just missed finishing in the top 10 in a sprint finish taking 11th, just three seconds behind 10th.



Dylan at the Head of a Very Fast Start



Chase giving Chase through the Crowd

Summary: Another exciting weekend for Air Academy of fun racing, team spirit, support, sportsmanship, and digging deep. Team depth was a factor. Team scoring for Division 1 is based on the top 15-point earners of each Team. Varsity racers earn the most points, followed by JV, sophomore, then freshmen. Two of Air Academy's top scorers, varsity racers Alex Snyder and Keegan Hale were not in the top 15 this week. Alex Snyder raced at the Gravel National Championships (finishing 7th) so was not at Eagle. Keegan Hale, as mentioned earlier crashed hard and showed true grit by just finishing. Air Academy showed that every team member can make a difference by filling the gaps resulting in once again, finishing on top of the podium! Dig Deep!

