

Tales of the Van Part 1

Well It was another successful year at “the Hoch” (A ski house located in the dense woods of Franconia) for the UNH Ski Team. For those new to the program or those that choose to forget their Hoch experiences, it should be noted that success can be measured many ways; Yes the skiing was good, both Jackson and Bretton woods had great to excellent conditions during camp, and the races at Jackson the 9th and 10th, a skate criterium and 5k/10k classic, let the UNH team dust off the cobwebs and get down to business.

But camp was an even bigger success when looking to the really important things, such as Mario Cart personal bests, team flatulence, Fainting (Kvehl), Kevin Rose’s Mohawk, shredding sessions on guitar and vocal accompaniment, Perry’s Krumping exhibition (I can’t really do that justice...ask for a personal demonstration) skunking incidents (a shut-out in anything played) resulting in a naked lap around the house preferably with the entire team present, and team skits at the end of camp (another shout-out to Perry on that one).

Not to dance around the question any longer; was camp good? Yes and Yes. After our stay at the Hoch, we loaded up the vans and headed west to New York. Believe it or not there are other parts to the state other than New York City and some of those places have pretty good skiing.

Lake Placid was our first carnival and we arrived two days early on Wednesday to view the course and relax. It was hard to calm down after the trip, due to a route change, resulting in a ferry ride across either the ocean or Lake Champlain, Cory was not sure and journalistic accuracy is my number one goal, so for now I will not say one way or the other. For some, the excitement of being on a boat, on a big, blue, watery-road proved too much. One of the more revved up individuals, Perry Thomas, had this to say about the trip: “ I love Ferries!”

The First day of racing at Mt VanHovenburg was a 5k Ladies’ and 10k Mens’ classic race. The course was challenging, but the real test was the conditions, starting out as a pleasant cooling rain transitioning into a beautiful snow fall. The snow would have been perfect for a romantic date, but not so perfect on top of klister conditions, and minor mayhem ensued for some skiers. When conditions change during a race, there is not much you can do and most simply had to bite their lip and “give’er”. Kevin Rose, a former high school cross country runner (he also has a sweet Mohawk) had this to say, “My running background was a huge benefit after it started to snow, I just ran down the hills.”

Despite trying conditions, the team managed a second place Nordic finish, with two women in the top 15, Tasha Kullas in 6th and Danielle Baron in 15th, with Danielle McVicar as the third skier in 29th. The men had a very strong day, with 3 in the top 10; McGuffin 3rd, Lindgren (A freshman from Sweden AKA Bjorn) 8th and Bedard 9th.

The second day of racing was a mass start 15k/ 20k for the women and men respectively. The course was a 5k loop that could be described as “ a narrow tree lined corridor of death”, but both races were reasonably clean for both women and men, aside from some things being said that would probably make Cory blush.

The ladies had a great day with 3 in the top ten. Anya Bean had a break out race, charging to a 5th place finish, with freshman Elizabeth Guiney following in 8th, and Kullas 10th.

The men straight up dominated, putting all 6 skiers in the top 15. McGuffin skied to an 8 second victory, followed by Bedard in 4th, Lindgren was 6th, Harb 9th, Lessard 12th and Anderson 15th. It was a really spectacular day for the UNH ski team!

Booyah

Yours truly,
D McGuffin