

# SPORTS

## Seven win championships at freeski regional event

Seven Gorge area athletes were gold medalists at the April 8-11 USA Snowboard and Freeski Association Pacific Northwest Regional Championships at Mount Hood Meadows.

The four-day competition was the culmination of winter freeski and snowboarding events and drew 128 competitors from throughout the Northwest and Alaska. They qualified with their placing at a series of eight competitions that were held this winter.

The event was interrupted by high winds, which prevented Meadows from opening on April 10. The halfpipe was shifted to the following day, when competitors in that discipline and rail jam enjoyed calm, sunny weather.

"Going into regionals, the athletes knew the runs they wanted to put down," said Joe Johnson, freeride coach for Cooper Spur Alpine Team. "They had practiced and prepared all season long, especially the weeks leading up to regionals. Trying new tricks, perfecting old ones, and figuring out what they wanted to do in their competition runs was the focus."

Regional champions included White Salmon's Riley Eichner, 12, who placed first in snowboard boardercross in the girls age 11-12 with 1,050 points. Emily Durow, 7, of The Dalles was first in snowboard boardercross for age 7-8 girls with 1,030 points. Durow added silver medals in slopestyle and halfpipe and won bronze in rail jam.

Kegan Lockwood scored 1,100 points in the final day's freeski rail jam, improvising for a championship performance in boys age 11-14. "I'm happy with what my runs were, and it was fun to compete against other skiers from around the Northwest," Lockwood said. "I picked tricks that I knew I could land but added switching up tricks on different rails and sliding unnatural."

Coach Johnson said: "Kegan had a huge variety of tricks spinning both to the left and right and skiing switch and forward. He skied with great consistency and landed several solid runs, which earned him the top spot in a field of 12 boys."

Kellan Lockwood won the regional title in boys age 7-10 freeski rail jam with 1,040 points. He also was



Kellan Lockwood, above left, and Emily Durow compete at the USA Snowboard and Freeski Association Pacific Northwest Regional Championships at Mount Hood Meadows. Contributed photos

silver medalist in slopestyle, skier cross and half pipe. He said some pre-competition preparation helped his performance. "I spent a lot of time on the rails night skiing and hiking the trails with my coaches, working on swaps and spins out," he said. "I had a lot more competitors in my age group this year and it pushed me to do harder tricks."

Hood River's Matt Picchiottino, ranked third in the nation, won the Snowboard Legend division for men age 40-49 with 1,010 points.

The Snowboard Rascal winner for girls age 6 and younger was White Salmon's Avery Eichner. Seth Ingersoll of Hood River won the boys age 7-8 Snowboard Ruggie halfpipe competition with 1,010 points and also was bronze medalist in boardercross.

The regional championship was held in lieu of the USASA Nationals, which were canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic. "The PNW Regional Championships was a way for us to celebrate the season and the efforts of so many young athletes who worked so hard this year," said Mike Mallon, USASA executive director. "While it was impossible to host our USASA National Championships ... we felt a smaller regional model would serve a similar purpose. Meadows was an amazing host for all four events."

2021 PNW Regional Championships Boardercross and Ski Cross April 8-11, Mt. Hood Meadows

April 8, Boardercross, Gorge results:  
Snowboard Grommet (9-10) Girls: 2. Lydia Ingersoll,

Hood River, 930 points. Snowboard Menhune (11-12) Girls: 1. Riley Eichner, White Salmon, 1050 points. Snowboard Ruggie (7-8) Girls: 1. Emily Durow, The Dalles, 1030 points. Freeski Breaker (13-14) Boys: 5. Keegan Lockwood, Mount Hood, 730 points. Freeski Grommet (9-10) Boys: 2. Kellan Lockwood, Mount Hood, 930 points. Freeski Menhune (11-12) Boys: 3. Watou Pfriem, Hood River, 830 points. Snowboard Grommet (9-10) Boys: 3. Emmett Durow, The Dalles, 850 points; 5. Isiah Ingersoll, Hood River, 730 points; DNF Lukas Mayo, Mosier. Snowboard Legend (40-49) Men: 1. Matt Picchiottino, Hood River, 1010 points. Snowboard Menhune (11-12) Boys: 3. Caleb Ingersoll, Hood River, 860. Snowboard Rascal (6 & under) Boys: 2. Jonah Ingersoll, Hood River. Snowboard Ruggie (7-8) Boys: 3. Seth Ingersoll, Hood River, 820 points.

April 9, Slopestyle, Gorge results:  
Snowboard Ruggie (7-8) Girls: 3. Emily Durow, The Dalles, 810 points. Freeski Grommet (9-10) Girls: 4. Kayla Friberg, Parkdale, 760 points. Freeski Grommet (9-10) Boys: 2. Kellan Lockwood, Mount Hood, 930 points. Freeski Menhune (11-12) Boys: 6. Jack Friberg, Parkdale, 670 points; 7. Watou Pfriem, Hood River, 610 points. Freeski breaker (13-14) Boys: 2. Anders Chapman, Hood River, 980 points; 6. Kegan Lockwood, Mt. Hood, 690 points; 9. Jack Jack Burton, Hood River, 510 points.

April 11, Halfpipe, Gorge results:  
Snowboard Rascal (6 & under) Girls: 1. Avery Eichner, White Salmon.

Snowboard Rascal (6 & under) Boys: 2. Jonah Ingersoll, Hood River. Snowboard Ruggie (7-8) Girls: 2. Emily Durow, The Dalles, 910 points. Snowboard Ruggie (7-8) Boys: 1. Seth Ingersoll, Hood River, 1010 points. Snowboard Grommet (9-10) Girls: 4. Lydia Ingersoll, Hood River, 760 points. Snowboard Grommet (9-10) Boys: 3. Isiah Ingersoll, Hood River, 820 points. Freestyle Grommet (9-10) Girls: 4. Kayla Friberg, Parkdale, 760 points. Freeski Grommet (9-10) Boys: 2. Kellan Lockwood, Mount Hood, 930 points. Snowboard Menhune (11-12) Girls: 4. Riley Eichner, White Salmon, 760 points. Snowboard Menhune (11-12) Boys: 3. Caleb Ingersoll, Hood River, 820 points. Freestyle Menhune (11-12) Boys: 2. Jack Friberg, Parkdale, 930 points. Freestyle Breaker (13-14) Boys: 3. Kegan Lockwood, Mt. Hood, 820 points.

April 11, Rail Jam, Gorge results  
Snowboard (6 & Under) Boys: 2. Jonah Ingersoll, Hood River. Snowboard (7-10) Boys: 8. Seth Ingersoll, Hood River, 570 points; 9. Isiah Ingersoll, Hood River, 510 points. Snowboard (7-10) Girls: 2. Lydia Ingersoll, Hood River, 930 points; 3. Emily Durow, The Dalles, 820 points. Freeski (7-10) Boys: 1. Kellan Lockwood, Mt. Hood, 1,040 points. Snowboard (11-14) Boys: 4. Caleb Ingersoll, Hood River, 800 points. Freeski (11-14) Boys: 1. Kegan Lockwood, Mt. Hood, 1,100 points; 3. Anders Chapman, Hood River, 880 points; 6. Jack Jack Burton, Hood River, 700 points.

## Riverhawk girls adjusts to tough competition



"It takes a tremendous amount of courage to get out there, often by yourself, never having played a varsity match."

Coach Debbie Jones

By Brandon Risley  
For Columbia Gorge News

Under a beautiful week of weather, The Dalles' young girls tennis team began its season with home losses to Redmond and Ridgeview by identical 7-1 scores. But there were plenty of positives starting with the Riverhawk No. 1 doubles team of Addison Little and Diana Flores Garcia, who won both their matches. "One of our biggest surprises of the season so far has been the play of these girls," said head Coach Debby Jones. "They do not hit as hard as their opponents, but they play smarter. They are consistent and willing to think strategy instead of just hitting the ball as hard as they can."

Jones, who has been coaching the team for nearly a decade, likens it to a family when asked about the program. "Within our program we have a culture of community and family," Jones said. "We want to always help the girls feel a part of that. I played for The Dalles and continue to give back. Chelsea, our assistant coach's mother, Kathy Gay, played for The Dalles and coached as well as her father, Peter. Chelsea played for The Dalles and coaches now. We are a part of a sisterhood that has continued for over a half a century thanks to our founder Roy Taylor."

Even with such a strong support system within the team, the pandemic has still made things difficult, especially for spring sports. The Riverhawks had two weeks of practice before the cancellation of high school sports in March 2020. "Our mindset definitely had to change after the season was canceled last year," said Jones. "We were the defending district champs and with 11 seniors, we were making a strong case to go

back-to-back."

With so much of the team moving on after the year off, the Riverhawks find themselves in a bit of rebuilding phase. Even though this year's team is less experienced than previous seasons, Jones still has an optimistic outlook going forward.

"We definitely are not the strongest team but see this as an opportunity to build towards the next two years," said Jones. "I am very pleased with the attitude and effort of the girls. We have 16 enthusiastic players who are putting in the work to improve."

Jones said one senior, in particular, has stepped up as a leader amid the team's turnover the past couple of years. "We do have one standout player in Hannah Biehn," Jones said. "Hannah is definitely our leader in attitude, effort and skill level."

While their opening matches did not go exactly as they wished, Jones remained positive about the effort her players put forward. "The first two matches have been eye openers," she said. "I am very proud of the quick progress that is being made even though we have a long way to go to get where we really want to be. That is probably what I am the most proud of."

"It takes a tremendous amount of courage to get out there, often by yourself, never having played a varsity match. You have nowhere to hide. No one can sub in for you. The sun is going to be in your eyes, the wind will blow, and you just might double fault your entire service game away, but they still stay out there, learning and growing with a smile and fierceness to their effort. Yep, I'm proud of them."

## Experienced Mnt. View sweeps young Riverhawk baseball team

By Mike Weber  
For Columbia Gorge News

Playing for the first time in nearly two years, The Dalles High Riverhawk baseball team held its 2021 season opener Saturday in a nonleague matchup versus the Mountain View Cougars of Bend. The more experienced Cougars - with two seniors and eight juniors - proved to be a very formidable opponent against a young Riverhawk squad that includes 10 freshmen and no seniors. The Cougars won both games, 19-1 and 16-0, at Quinton Street Ballpark.

"A lot of these kids haven't played baseball in two years and it definitely looked like it at times today with all the mistakes we made," said Coach Steve Sugg, whose assistant coaches include the father-and-son duo of Ed and Bailey Ortega, the latter a 2016 The Dalles High graduate. "This is the youngest team I've ever had, so there were lots of young kids playing their first game and they were probably a little nervous. As young as we are, we should still be more competitive, and we shouldn't have 10-run games."

In Game 1, the Cougars jumped in front 3-0 in the first inning and then got seven in the second. The Dalles came back in bottom of the frame and scored a run on an RBI double by junior William Hoover (1-for-2), which helped the Riverhawks avoid a shutout and make it 10-1. Hoover, freshman William Lee (1-for-1, single) and sophomore Nathan Hedges (1-2, double) had the only hits for The Dalles.

"I told the kids after the game that it's not about wins and losses, but it's about how much we improve from game to game, so we should be a better baseball team on Tuesday than we were today," said Sugg about the Riverhawks' next contest (results came after the printed edition deadline). "Each day we just have to get better and better and I just want to see improvement from game to game. At the end of this six-week season, we should be a pretty good baseball team."

Mountain View continued pounding hits (nine total) and capitalized on The Dalles mistakes (eight errors) and added five runs in the third and four in the fifth for the final margin. The Dalles sophomore Braden Schwartz started on the mound and he had three strikeouts and allowed three hits. He was followed on the mound by freshmen relief pitchers Sam Shaver and William Lee, who pitched the third, fourth and fifth innings.

"It's really nice to be out here playing again, especially since we lost the whole season of our freshman year last season," said Schwartz. "There was a lot of errors and we had way too many of those, but we have a lot more games to play, so we'll improve and get better. I think we can definitely get to where we need to be by practicing more and playing more games."

For Schwartz and sophomores Riley Brock, Evan Baldy, Diego Gonzales and Hedges, it marked the first game of their The Dalles High School baseball career since their freshman season last

year was canceled because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

"I'm just really glad to be out here playing, because it's been a long time since we played a high school baseball game," said Gonzales, a center fielder who had the only hit for The Dalles in Game 2 with a second-inning single. "It felt good to get a hit and I just saw a pitch that I felt like I could drive and that's what I did. We have lots of room for improvement, but it's going to take time since we're such a young team and we have lots of stuff to work on. There's nothing on the line, such as playoffs or anything like that so this just gives us a chance to improve throughout the season."

Mountain View led 2-0 going into the top of the third

inning, but then the Cougars got things rolling offensively (11 total hits), aided by six total Riverhawk errors.

The Dalles will try to bounce back Saturday at home in an 11 a.m. contest in a Class 5A Intermountain Conference game versus the Ridgeview Ravens (1-1). A second contest of the doubleheader follows at 3 p.m. against Mountain View. The 15-game schedule continues with The Dalles playing the defending (2019) IMC champion Pendleton Buckaroos at home April 27 at 4:30 p.m.

Find an online photo gallery from Friday's game at columbiagorge.com.



The Dalles' baseman Cooper Klindt, left, just misses getting the tag on Mountain View's Connor Zook during the first game of Saturday's double header played in The Dalles.

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