

Avalanche Amateur Hockey comes to NedRINK

SARA SANDSTROM
NEDERLAND

When Loren Tillotson, physical education teacher at Nederland Elementary and Flatirons Elementary, heard that the Colorado Avalanche had a program involving elementary schools, she signed up.

Players from the Avalanche Amateur Hockey team first came to Tillotson's physical education classes at the elementary schools, offering Hockey 101. There the students learned basic hockey skills like stickhandling, passing, and shooting the puck (or ball, in the case of street hockey).

On January 21 members from the Avalanche Amateur Hockey team and staff came to NedRINK to offer

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PHOTO BY SARA SANDSTROM

A great day on the ice

There were lots of smiles on the faces of kids as they played hockey with the Avalanche Amateur Hockey players.

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PHOTO BY DAVE GIBSON

NED SKI TEAM HOSTS ELDORA SLALOM

Seven teams compete

Teagan Hartman is one of seven members of the team that attends Nederland High School. See story on page 10.

Pardon our dust, we are under construction. This week you will find that the paper has shifted a bit with content being moved. The good news is, it's all still there. We are moving things around as part of a redesign. Inside page 3 you will find the directory listing where things have been placed. Love it? Hate it? *Let us know at info@themountaineer.com.*

- QUOTE OF THE WEEK -

"Sunshine is delicious, rain is refreshing, wind braces us up, snow is exhilarating; there is really no such thing as bad weather, only different kinds of good weather." ~John Ruskin



Ned Ski Team hosts Eldora Slalom



DAVE GIBSON
NEDERLAND

On January 19, an individually driven and collectively unified Nederland Ski Team hosted a slalom race at Eldora Mountain Resort. It was the third of six races that they will participate in this year.

Seventeen of the team's racers had already provisionally qualified for the State Championships in either slalom or giant slalom and they were looking to add more to that list. There are 52 student-athletes from a dozen schools on the Nederland Ski Team. Thirty-six of them competed in Friday's race. They faced skiers from Evergreen, Clear Creek, Middle Park, Lake County, Platte Canyon, and Durango.

The 40 inches of snow that had fallen the previous days on the LaBelle Dame course was soft and created ruts around the gates for the racers to navigate that only got deeper as the day wore on. Each racer would take two runs to achieve a combined time. Ned Ski Team junior Marley Farrow was first down the mountain. One by one the women

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PHOTOS BY DAVE GIBSON

A solid showing by the home team
Top, left: Lilly Mangham shows good form on her way to a 13th place finish. Above, right: A Ned Ski Team member tears down the mountain at Friday's competition. Bottom: Marley Farrow was the top Nederland finisher in the Women's division.



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Eldora Slalom

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sped through the carefully laid out course. Following them were the men, a lunch break, then a second run that provided a chance to improve upon their first runs.

Garrett Gillest of Middle Park took top honors in the Men's division with a time of 1:28.97. Three racers, from

a strong Middle Park squad, were the next fastest. With merely .86 of a second separating them, Ned Ski Team members Nicholas Bigelow, Cole Gjertson, and Ryder Lanning placed 6th, 9th, and 10th respectively.

Olivia Niedzweicki of Middle Park blazed down the hill, far outpacing her competition by a margin of 7.87 seconds. Middle Park landed three of the top five spots in the Women's division. The Nederland Women's finishes were identical to the Men's. Marley Farrior was in good form coming in at 6th place with a time of 1:46.89. Isla Jones and Ava Eissinger took 9th and 10th places to bolster

With an eye on the State Championships

Top, left: Ryder Lanning on his way to a 10th place finish. Top, middle: Alexander Spuhler shows promise. Top, right: Liam Kraus clears a gate. Bottom, right: Isla Jones skied well for a 9th place finish. Bottom, left: A skier from a rival team crashes and burns.

a strong showing by the group. The Men's team placed 2nd overall and the Women's 3rd overall for the day.

Head coach of the Nederland Alpine Ski Team Krista Crabtree said after the race, "The coaches are extremely proud of the sportsmanship and teamwork that our skiers display. Ski racing is a challenging sport full of early mornings, inclement weather and variable snow conditions. Our athletes display grit

and determination that they foster during our intense season, but they also demonstrate a huge amount of support for each other."

A slalom at Ski Cooper (January 26), a giant slalom at Keystone (February 2), and another giant slalom at Beaver Creek (February 9) are next on tap. The team now has 24 racers slated to appear at the CHSSL State Championships at Loveland Ski Area on February 15 and 16.



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