

PARA J1-2 Chair Report
2009-2010 Season

PA Cup Series and State Team

Thirty-six female and eighty-two male athletes competed in the PA Cup this season. PA Cup races were hosted by Seven Springs (2SL), Blue Mountain (2GS), SNO Mountain (1SL) and Elk (1SL, 2GS). At the conclusion of the last PA Cup race at Elk on February, 21, 2010, the PARA J1-2 State Team was named, the PA Cup Champions were crowned and the winner of the of the Frank Sheibley Memorial Award was announced.

The 2010 J1-2 State Team includes the top five ranked female and top ten ranked male athletes based on final PA Cup results, plus all athletes who attended the Eastern J2 Championship event.

2010 PARA State Team

J1-2 Women

Kylee Turko	BMSC	1993
Heather Derr	TMART	1993
Dylan Kowalchuk	BMRT	1991
Katie Benjamin	WPRC	1994
Kara Phillips	PASEF	1992
Gabriela Depaulo	BMRT	1992
Kristen Hardy	ELK	1993

J1-2 Men

Tyler Smith	EMSC	1991
Thomas K. Karam	EMSC	1992
Ryan M. Symancek	PASEF	1990
Devin Dymek	SSRC	1992
W. Tyler Filling	SRRC	1991
Alex J. Clayton	WPRC	1993
Chance Snyder	CBRT	1993
M. Kyle Shostek	EMSC	1992
Matthew Riggi	EMSC	1993
Luke Wiles	SRRC	1992
Conor Wakeen	SRRC	1992
Mackenzie Decarle	TMART	1994
Thomas R. Steinbach	SNO	1994

The 2010 PA Cup Champions are Kylee Turko (BMSC) and Tyler Smith (EMSC).

The winner of the 2010 Frank Sheibley Memorial Award is Sarah A. Milby (LMRT). The Frank Sheibley Memorial Award is determined by the PARA Executive Board and presented each year to the J1 or J2 athlete who demonstrates the qualities of character and dedication to the sport of alpine ski racing in PARA.

Post-Season Competition

Eastern J2 Championship: The first post-season event was the Eastern J2 Championship, an FIS event held at Stowe, VT from March 2 through March 5. The event included GS, SL and 2 SG races. The USSA penalty points were as follows:

Women

SL	67.45
GS	67.93
SG	97.75
SG	107.37

Men

SL	75.07
GS	67.94
SG	117.43
SG	112.38

Five PARA athletes attended, three second-year J2s and two first-year J2s, with coaches Curt Schramm and Bill Steinbach. Our racers acquitted themselves well. Top-30 finishes included 12th and 21st place finishes in the SG races by Thomas Steinbach as well as a 29th in the GS; a 19th place finish in the SL by Kylee Turko as well as a 25th in a SG; and a 27th place finish by Heather Derr in the SL as well as a 30th in the GS. Our PARA J2s did a great job against the top J2s in the east.

Eastern J1-2 Finals: The next post-season event was the Eastern J1-2 Finals, held at Gore, NY from March 8 through March 11. The event included GS, SL and 2 SG races. The USSA penalty points were as follows:

Women

SL	87.16
GS	100.53
SG	145.06
SG	158.60

Men

SL	70.19
GS	87.11
SG	137.06
SG	122.27

Four women and ten men attended, with coaches Pat Neville, Kelsey Newell and Steve Antal. Again, our PARA racers performed very well against the northern competition. Top-30 finishes included a 2nd place podium finish by Heather Derr in GS as well as 11th and 28th place finishes in the SG races; a 15th place finish by Kristen Hardy in the GS, a 23rd place in the SL, and 23rd and 30th place finishes in the SG races. Top finishes among the men included a 4th place finish by Devin Dymek in the GS, just .08 seconds off the podium, as well as a 6th place in the SL, and 14th and 22nd place finishes in the two SG races; a 6th place finish by Chance Snyder in the GS, as well as 11th and 13th place finishes in the SG races and 30th in the SL; a 10th place finish by Thomas Karam in the GS; 18th and 26th place finishes by Luke Wiles in the SG races and a 20th place finish in the SL; a 21st place finish by Matthew Riggi in GS; a 21st place finish by Kyle Shostek in the SL and a 28th place finish in a SG by Kyle Wakeen. It was a great showing by the whole PARA team.

Eastern High School Championship: The last post-season event was the Eastern High School Championship, held in North Conway, NH at Attitash/Bear Creek from March 12 through 14. The event included one day of training followed by a GS and SL race. The USSA penalty points were as follows:

Women

SL	78.02
GS	81.74

Men

SL	60.40
GS	74.67

Eleven women and fifteen men attended, with coaches Gus Picariello, Mark Symancek, Susan Steinbach and Tyler Picariello. This is a team racing event and PARA sent three teams: an 11-racer PA women's team; a 12-racer PA men's team, and a 3-racer DC/VA men's team. It also is a USSA sanctioned scored event, so it presented another points opportunity for our racers.

Top individual honors for the weekend belonged to Kylee Turko who placed 4th in the SL and 10th in the GS. Other top-30 finishes included a 19th place finish by Molly Broom in the SL; a 26th place finish by Kristen Hardy in the SL; a 26th place finish by Chance Snyder in the SL and a 27th place in the SL for Thomas Steinbach. For the remainder of my report on the Eastern High School Championship, I reprint below some excerpts from a March 26 email sent by coach Symancek thanking the parents and recapping the race:

[W]e, as coaches, were very proud of this year's teams representing PARA. Coaches Gus, Susan, Tyler, and I were impressed by how well every racer on our team did and how closely competitive we stacked up to the best varsity skiers in New England. As a team, we beat NJ overall (a perennial goal!) in every race and we also beat Wisconsin in GS.....Our team was relatively young compared to the New England teams --- 18 of our 26 racers were J2s ---but we hung tough. That will make us more experienced and super competitive next year.....If you're in PARA next season and in high school, we definitely want you to join us at the 2011 EHS Championships! Athletes, thanks for the respect you showed us and others at the event. You are fine athletes and will go far.....Parents, a special thank you for all your efforts and help during the season and especially at this year's EHS championship. It is not easy hauling your athletes all over creation and doing it with a calm, positive demeanor, but you did --- you were great! Thank you! If it wasn't for great parents raising great kids, Gus and I would have retired years ago!]

Our PARA teams did a great job at the Eastern High School Championships and it is good to see participation in this event growing.

FIS Racing

In addition to the post-season events, PARA has a small number of quotas available for J1-2 athletes at developmental FIS GS and SL races throughout the east. These races present FIS points opportunities before and after the PA Cup season in PARA. In 2009-2010, PARA skiers competed in FIS races at Attitash, NH; Sugarbush, VT; Waterville, NH; Sunday River, ME and Killington, VT. One PARA racer took advantage of a developmental FIS opportunity at Winter Park, CO as well. The racers usually lowered their points profile as a result of competing at these races. I encourage coaches to study the Eastern USSA Regional Calendar each fall and contact the J1-2 Chair if you believe there are opportunities for your racers that are ready to take advantage of developmental FIS races.