

Sports News



Nick Murphy in the lead while Ben Clemence is not far behind. Murphy took first and Clemence took second in the SHS Invitational.



Sam Lowell made the qualifying round with Anthony Caruso, Brant Mullens, Alex Rodd, Jack Chapman, Sean Lynch, Lucas Aveling, and Cooper Flanders.



Marissa Ashcroft skates to the finish line with a second place.



Matt Benoit had his best race of the season.

Souhegan Nordic Teams

Boys Are 1 & 2 at SHS Invitational

The Souhegan Nordic Ski teams capped off their regular season with an outstanding day of skiing at the Souhegan Invitational Race held at Legacy Park in Bedford on Saturday. Nick Murphy (#204) won the boy's race and Ben Clemence (#210) took second. Marissa Ashcraft (#5) took second in the girl's race.

The Invitational is a sprint format race. After an initial qualifying round, the race progresses through elimination heats, with the leaders skiing a number of 1K heats throughout the day. Marissa Ashcraft (#5), Jordan Springman, Nicole Lamana, and Rachel Springman all advanced from the qualifying round into the elimination brackets. After winning each of her earlier heats, Ashcraft went into the last heat against three other skiers. With an excellent effort, Ashcraft moved up from third to take second.

In the boy's race, Murphy (#204), Clemence (#210), Sam Lowell (#222), Matt Benoit (#233), Anthony Caruso, Brant Mullens, Alex Rodd, Jack Chapman, Sean Lynch, Lucas Aveling, and Cooper Flanders all made it through the qualifying round to the elimination heats. In his best race of the season, Benoit raced to the quarter finals before being eliminated. Lowell and Caruso also had strong efforts to make it to the quarterfinals. Clemence and Murphy each won all of their earlier heats and then met up in the final heat of the day. Clemence took the early lead, with Murphy boxed in at the back of the group. With a powerful surge on the first hill, Murphy moved past the other three skiers to take the lead and hold it for the rest of the race, with Clemence skiing a strong race for second.



Coach Emma Ruddock, Ben Clemence, Marissa Ashcraft, Nick Murphy

The Derryfield School:



CANDY CHAPLIN COURTESY PHOTO

The Derryfield School's Taylor Huxtable at Loon Mountain in alpine race start gate

Middle School Slalom Racers

BY KATRINA HOLMAN

MANCHESTER – Seventh-graders Taylor Huxtable and Lindsay Moss, both of Amherst, were new to ski racing this year and they loved it! They joined the Middle School alpine ski team at The Derryfield School along with two other girls and nine boys. The season was so much fun: racing through the gates of the Giant Slalom and Slalom events, cheering on teammates, free skiing on the mountain between races, and

the camaraderie of team training.

The Cougars' short white school bus, stenciled with maroon paw prints, would transport the team to Pat's Peak twice a week for two hours of practice on the mountain, and on two other days of the week, they would have dry-land training. The team raced in three meets: at Mount Sunapee on Jan. 15, where Taylor and Lindsay competed with 40 other middle school girls; at Loon on Jan. 30; and at Attitash Feb 5.

Another Strong Race For Sabers

The Souhegan Nordic Ski Teams traveled to Gilford Tuesday, February 3rd, to compete in a 5K classic style race at Gunstock Nordic Center. Both teams performed very well under challenging race conditions, with the girl's team finishing fourth and the boy's team finishing third.

The girl's scored 336 points for fourth behind Fall Mountain (382), Bow (381), and Gilford (362). Marissa Ashcraft turned in a strong race for 10th place (23:23). Rachel Springman (23rd, 26:59), Megan Lynch (29th, 27:41), Haley Humphries (46th, 32:31), and Jordan Springman (49th, 33:31) also skied well.

In the boy's race, the Sabers scored 360 points for third behind Bow (380), and Fall Mountain (366). SHS had two skiers in the top ten, with Nick Murphy capturing 5th (17:57) and Ben Clemence taking 10th (18:50). They were followed by Anthony Caruso, who finished 13th (19:50), with three skiers finishing within seconds of each other to place in the top twenty: Brant Mullens (17th, 20:29), Alex Rodd, (18th, 20:31), and Sam Lowell (19th, 20:34). Sean Lynch (26th), Jack Chapman (30th), Matt Benoit (32nd), Lucas Aveling (33rd), and Cooper Flanders (38th) also finished well.

James Wilson Leads Top Local Hockey Team

NASHUA – James Wilson of Mont Vernon has been named captain of the Pro Ambition Squirt Major AAA hockey team out of Nashua. The team is currently 13-1 in the Tier 1 Granite State Hockey League and on top of the New Hampshire state standings. Pro Ambitions also plays in the New England Elite Hockey league that includes teams from Massachusetts, Vermont, New York, Connecticut and Maine and regularly competes in top non-league competition against teams from throughout the US and Canada. The team is 25-15-3 overall so far this season and is ranked in the top 45 teams in the country.

James leads his team in scoring and was twice named New England Player of the Week this winter. During the summer James will play once again for Team Excel out of Albany, NY, as a reserve for the Jr. Bruins in Marlboro, MA and for Team Northeast in the OneHockey International Tournament being held in Philadelphia, PA amongst other summer development programs.

The Pro Ambitions team competes in the Mousquiri Atom Hockey Tournament in Richmond, QE February 12-15th followed by the NH State Championship tournament later this month possibly qualifying for the USA Hockey Northeast Regional tournament in March.

Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl

HANOVER, NH-- The stage is set for the 56th Annual Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl with the announcement of the 36-man New Hampshire Shrine Team. The summer classic will be played August 1 in Windsor, Vermont, only the second time the game has been played in the Green Mountain state.

Over 100 players from New Hampshire high schools were nominated by their head coaches for this year's Shrine Game and a "screening" committee chaired by NH Shrine Coach Greg Husband of Franklin and made up of head coaches from every division, made the final selections.

Twenty-four schools are represented on the New Hampshire Shrine team and as always, every player is a soon to be graduated high school senior. College football lies ahead for most, while for others the Shrine Bowl will mark their final appearance on a football field.

The Vermont Shrine team, which will be coached by Mike Hatt of Springfield, was announced earlier. The two head coaches, Husband and Hatt, are coming off of undefeated, state championship seasons.

The two teams will meet March 1 in Lebanon, NH with their respective coaches to review game plans and formal practice for both teams will begin July 22 at Kimball Union Academy in Meriden, NH.

The Shrine Maple Sugar Bowl is played for the benefit of the Shriners' Hospitals for Crippled and Burned Children and in its first 55 years has raised nearly four million dollars. The Bowl Game is one of 40 Shrine games played every year nationwide. The twin state game is sponsored by the three Shrine Centers of New Hampshire and Vermont, Bektash (Concord), Cairo (Rutland) and Mt. Sinai (Montpelier).

Players from Amherst are: Ian Ginnard and Jameson Luks

Amherst Soccer Club

Spring Soccer - (open to players from any town) Amherst Soccer Club is now taking registrations for boys and girls ages U3 through U10 for this coming fall Tots and Early Development Program (EDP). There are also limited spots available for our boys and girls upper club U11 through U15 teams. For more information contact, Lisa Davidson at 654-5276 or go to our website at www.amherstsoccerclub.com.

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