



TEAM MINNESOTA FINISHES SECOND AT WESTERN U.S. HIGH SCHOOL ALPINE CHAMPIONSHIP

3/25/23 Press Release

- **FIRST EVER EVENT PARTICIPATION BY TEAM FROM MINNESOTA**
- **TEAM MINNESOTA 2nd OVERALL, BOYS 2nd COMBINED, GIRLS 2nd COMBINED**
- **JACKSON REENTS (11), HASTINGS, 2nd OVERALL SLALOM, 3rd OVERALL GIANT SLALOM**
- **KATE REARDON (10), HILL-MURRAY, 3rd OVERALL SLALOM**

Team Minnesota, a team of top alpine high-school racers from around the state, earned a second place overall finish at the Western U.S. High School Alpine Championships in Mt. Hood, OR on March 9–11, 2023.

This goal of the event is to bring together the top high school racers in the Western half of the United States to compete for their state in a Championship format event with races in two disciplines, Giant Slalom (GS) and Slalom (SL). Teams from Colorado, Wyoming, Oregon, and Nevada also competed with over 65 competitors for each gender. The event was U.S. Ski and Snowboard (www.ussa.org) sanctioned and the first time in which a team from Minnesota participated.

Minnesota State High School Alpine Ski Coaches Association served as the state coordinator for the event and selected team members based on Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) Section results. The team consisted of 11 boys and 12 girls. Team Minnesota competitors were:

BOYS:

Jackson Reents (11 - Hastings)
Aaron Herber (12 - Hastings)
Ray Dressley (11 - Cook County)
Cy Oberholtzer (11 - Cook County)
Jaggen Qie (12 - Wayzata)
Stephen Reddington (12 - Minnetonka)
Leo DeMars (11 - Mankato West)
Riley Okubo (11 - Lakeville North)
Reid Sprenkle (12 - Edina)
Lukas VanWechel (12 - Blaine)
Henry Giles (9 - St Paul Academy)

GIRLS:

Ella Dols (11 - St Cloud)
Marissa Witte (11 - Minnetonka)
Kate Reardon (10 - Hill-Murray)
Natalie Humbert (12 - Hill-Murray)
Kalina Dimitrova (11 - Cook County)
Breck Carlson (12 - Mankato West)
Brynn Bohlke (12 - Mankato West)
Veronica McHenry (12 - Duluth East)
Elisabeth Bergan (9 - Duluth East)
Emily Gustafson (11 - Mound-Westonka)
Abbi Pelava (11 - Hastings)
Stella Gronski (12 - Anoka)

The race schedule was adjusted due to snowfall, but, in an event previous dominated by Colorado teams, Team Minnesota came out strong and put Colorado on notice as the Team Minnesota boys solidly won the first slalom race. Colorado topped Minnesota in the second race after the Team Minnesota boys ran into problems on the course. Colorado won the overall combined slalom title based on points differential between the races. Junior Jackson Reents from Hastings, the 3rd place finisher at the MSHSL alpine state championship, finished 2nd overall for the boys.

Similarly, Team Minnesota girls flexed their muscle early but were ultimately edged out by Colorado in both slalom races. Kate Reardon, a sophomore from the MSHSL girls state champion team, Hill-Murray, was on the podium as the 3rd overall finisher.



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In a weather-shortened Giant Slalom race, both the boys and girls teams finished 2nd, just behind Colorado. Reents was again the boys top finisher placing 3rd overall. Reardon was the girls top finisher in 11th.

Team Minnesota coaches Briggs Carlson and Nate Springer were impressed how quickly the team came together. “It’s pretty funny how they have all gelled in the past 8 hours”, said Springer after the first day of training at Mt. Hood. Headed into the event, Springer stated, “Top 3 was the goal”. Mission accomplished.

Complete race results can be found here:

[2023 Western US HS Championships Results Book.pdf \(fwskiing.org\)](#)

Event Wrap-up Video:

[2023 Western U.S. High School Alpine Ski Race Championships - YouTube](#)

Photos:



Team Minnesota



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Kate Reardon (Hill Murray) - 3rd



Jackson Reents (Hastings) – 2nd, far left