

SPORTS

U.S. NATIONAL TELEMARK CHAMPIONSHIPS



Photo by Bob Berlin

Reid Sabin, took second place at the U.S. Telemark Championships on the Big Mountain.

Local free-heelers dominate Nationals

Two Whitefish skiers won multiple medals at the U.S. Telemark Championships held on the Big Mountain this weekend.

Over 100 free-heel competitors from across the nation caught air, bashed gates, skated, climbed and skied a 360-degree turn "reipelykkje."

Home-grown local favorites, Reid Sabin and Cody Thompson, both from Whitefish, took multiple medals in three events.

Thompson was the overall women's winner in the Expert Class while Sabin took second place for the men, edged out by defending champion Chris Rice of Utah.

Chris Nelson of Whitefish placed second in the Slalom.

"There was an excellent field of people," said Becky Lomax of the Big Mountain Ski School. "The energy and camaraderie of the competitors made it an exciting weekend for everyone involved. Comments from racers across the United States indicated to us that

this was an extremely successful event."

In addition to winning the overall women's event, Thompson also placed first in the Giant Slalom and the Classic.

"The whole weekend was a lot of fun," Thompson said of the races. "The Thursday night telemark league has really helped a lot and it's great to see all the competitors here."

Sabin, who favors the Classic course, said of the event "It is the most grueling, but such a unique event.

You have to be good at all aspects of telemarking for this race, not just skiing gates. It is the hardest classic I've ever run and definitely a World Cup caliber course."

The U.S. Telemark Skiers Association is interested in bringing a World Cup race. Telemarking is gaining world-wide attention and it is being considered as a demonstration sport in the 2002 Olympics in Salt Lake City.

Expert Men

Giant Slalom

1. Reid Sabin, Whitefish
2. Chris Rice, Salt Lake City, Utah
3. Aley Heswon, Teton Village, Wyo.

Classic

1. Chris Rice, Salt Lake City, Utah
2. Reid Sabin, Whitefish
3. Taug Boschen, Denver, Colo.

Slalom

1. Chris Rice, Salt Lake City, Utah
2. Chris Nelson, Whitefish
3. Dave Terwlinger, Lake Placid, N. Y.

Expert Women

Giant Slalom

1. Cody Thompson, Whitefish
2. Lori Stahler, Salt Lake City, Utah
3. Carole Hill, Snowqualmie Pass, Wash.

Classic

1. Cody Thompson, Whitefish
2. Cheryl Vanderhorn, Leavenworth, Wash.
3. Lori Stahler, Salt Lake City, Utah

Slalom

1. Lori Stahler, Salt Lake City, Utah
2. Cody Thompson, Whitefish
3. Cheryl Vanderhorn, Leavenworth, Wash.