

# Whitefish resident wins world telemark race

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Whitefish resident Reid Sabin made telemark history as he became the first United States telemark racer to win a World Cup event. Sabin posted a first place victory in the Classic in Branäs, Sweden. Chris Rice, fellow teammate and Whitefish resident placed second behind Sabin in the event. The Classic is a grueling test of a skier's skill and physical ability combining giant slalom turns, a jump, an uphill skating section and a banked 360 degree turn called a reipelykkje.

Sabin, along with US telemark teammates Cody Thompson, Chris Rice, Taug Boschen, Glenn Gustafson and Jef Elliott have been competing in World Cup telemark events in Norway and Sweden. Stuart Williams and Kris Carpenter also of Whitefish joined US team



Reid Sabin, shown in this file photo courtesy of Jeff Scholl.

Sabin got off to a slow start with disappointing crashes in the

first events in Geilo, Norway. After the fastest time in the first run of the Sprint Classic in Geilo, Sabin "blew up" on the jump and broke a binding. "I had a strong first run and I was going for the podium," Sabin said from Norway. Sabin's disappointment continued in the next event, a Giant Slalom, also in Geilo, but he maintained a positive attitude and pulled out a fourth place result in a Classic in Aurdal, Norway.

In a sport typically dominated by Scandinavian skiers, the US skiers led by "The Five Star General" Chris Rice are

quickly making names for themselves on the World Cup circuit. Rice, the US national telemark champion for five years running relocated to Whitefish this winter to train with the Whitefish racers. In the first World Cup events of the 2000 season, all the US skiers posted strong results.

On the women's side, Cody Thompson placed consistently in the top ten with a second place finish in the Sprint Classic and a fourth place in the Giant Slalom, both events in Geilo.

In Aurdal, Thompson skied to a fifth place finish in the Classic and she posted an eighth in the Classic in Branäs. Thompson's results have her ranked second in world cup standings.

Rice posted consistent results in all the events and is currently fifth in World Cup standings. Sabin follows Rice in ninth place in the

world cup standings with Boschen, Gustafson and Elliott 32nd, 33rd and 43rd respectively.

The Whitefish skiers will be home for the next World Cup event of the season scheduled for February 19-21 at The Big Mountain.

## Telemark win for WF man

BRANAS, Sweden — Reid Sabin, of Whitefish, became the first USA skier to win a World Cup Telemark event Saturday as he placed first in the classic with a time of 3:06.60.

Teammate and Whitefish resident Chris Rice was second, 3:10.10.

"He was pretty excited," said his wife Kirsten Sabin. "Definitely happy. He said his luck has finally turned."

Sabin has crashed in two of the four races he's entered in Scandinavia. In the first in Geilo, Norway, he had the top time after the first run, but crashed on his second and did not place.

On Wednesday in Aurdal, Norway, Sabin was fourth in the classic, one spot behind Rice.

Also on Saturday, Glen Gustafson finished 10th, Taug Boschen 23rd, Jef Elliott 26th, Kris Carpenter 35th and Stuart Williams 36th.

All are from Whitefish. For the women, Cody Thompson, of Whitefish, placed third on Saturday in the classic at Branäs.

Thompson has also placed second in the classic sprint and fourth in the giant slalom.

On Friday in Branäs with the classic sprint, Rice was 9th, Boschen 22nd, Elliott 28th and Carpenter 33rd. Sabin did not finish the race.

The next World Cup event for telemark skiers takes place at The Big Mountain Feb. 19-21.