

Skier Sabin 'honored' to carry Olympic torch

Local World Cup champion Reid Sabin didn't want the Olympic flame to falter on his watch.

It had already traveled from Greece to Atlanta, then on to Juneau to light one of America's darkest winter cities.

The fire was on its way back to the Olympic Stadium in Salt Lake City when it touched Sabin's icicle-shaped torch on a windy day in Spokane last Thursday, Jan. 24.

"It was kind of tough to get my torch lit," Sabin said. "Once it was lit there was no trouble keeping it going."

Running two-tenths of a mile through throngs of spectators Sabin touched his torch to another's and watched the flame continue on its way down the road toward the Olympic Cauldron.

"What a memorable moment," he said.

Sabin's life is hectic right now, but he still found time to carry the torch. With a child coming into the world any day and preparations to defend his World Cup title at Big Mountain this week, the champion is swamped.



Reid Sabin

"I was stressing out about going, but I'm glad I did it," Sabin said. "It was truly inspiring. Once I got there it meant a lot to me."

Sabin was nominated for the honor by his wife, Kirsten. He was one of the 11,500 athletes chosen to carry the flame across the country, then down to Utah, covering some 13,500 miles in 65 days. While those numbers seem large, the nominations for the opportunity to carry a torch reached 210,000.

"I just feel lucky that I was chosen," Sabin said. "It was an honor to represent Montana in the relay."

— Josh Mahan

Reid Sabin defending World Cup Telemark title on Big Mountain

Reid Sabin couldn't spend too much time enjoying his moment of Olympic glory. He was also preparing to compete in the World Cup Telemark Skiing Championships on Big Mountain.

Racing begins today and lasts for a week. Turn to Page B-7 for more on the big event.