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Press Release

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Lake Placid Gets Rained Out But Team Rossi Racers Shine in MN, AK and ID

While a strong contingent of Team Rossignol skiers were ready to travel to New York for the Lake Placid Loppet, word was out about the deteriorating conditions from the unusually warm rainy weather. Some Team racers ended up with an unwanted weekend reprieve in their race competition as the announcement echoed through the race world that the event would be postponed for three weeks.

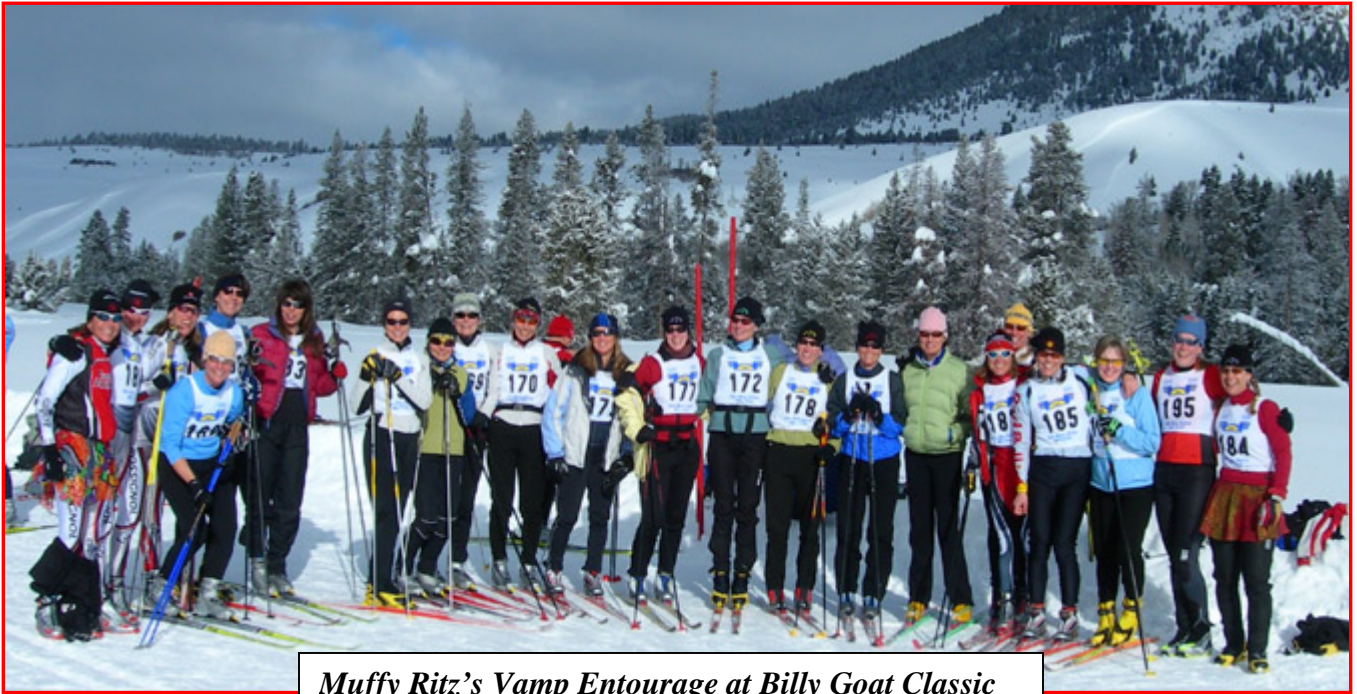
In the Midwest, it was racing as usual for a few Team members as they attacked the Mt. Itasca, MN. Super Series races. Natalia Naryshkina was victorious in the 10km classic event after her previous day's seventh place finish against some of the nations top mid distance racers. Over in Wausau, WI, Team Rossignol racer Lorie Wesolek from Stoughton, WI easily won the Wausau Snekkevic 12km and placed 17th overall including the men. In the 22nd annual Pepsi Challenge Marathon in Biwabik, MN, TR skiers Kim Rudd and JoAnn Hanowski finished 4th and 5th in a deep women's field. Keep charging Midwest ladies!

In Alaska, National Championship bronze medallist and Team Rossignol athlete Kate Pearson took on the National Champion Kikken Randall but had to settle for second best in the Kincaid Park Besh Cup Series. Third place went to Camilla Brinchmann. Good luck to Kikken at the Olympics next month in Italy.

A handful of Team Rossignol men took control of the Teton Ridge Classic in Driggs, ID this past weekend in a mass start 28km classic event. It was tip-to-tail racing for four Rossi athletes as they tried to drop Erich Wilbrecht of Jackson, WY. All five athletes skied the course together until the final sprint where Wilbrecht managed to find another gear and out-sprinted Team Rossignol's Meiko Hoemke of SLC across the line by less than one second to take the win in 1:36:13. Third through 5th places also went to Team Rossignol skiers with Chris Mallory 3rd, Jon Engen 4th, and Kiefer Hahn in 5th. Team Rossignol athlete and Montana State University ski coach Grethe-Lise Hagensen edged out Nikki Kimball for the women's title in 1:42:00.

Back in Sun Valley, ID, the stage was set for the annual Billy Goat Loppet. This annual 10km race is hardly a distance event as the name portrays, but gives a chance for many newcomers in the sport their first racing experience and for others a good tune up for the prestigious Boulder Mtn Tour. While most of the guys were off at the Teton Ridge Classic, the Sun Valley girls stayed close to home to garner publicity for Team Rossignol. Team racer Muffy Ritz brought many of her Vamps (a 80+ women's group dedicated to having fun in the sport and becoming better skiers) but the highlight of the day was Rossignol's Brooke Hovey, who had the fastest time of the day for both women and men. Taking second in the men's event was TR skier Will Hovey. Adrian Luegers was second followed by four Team Rossignol women that included Muffy Ritz 3rd, Darla McRoberts 4th, Rebecca Rusch 5th, and Kim Nalen 6th. Muffy, Jon Engen, and others from Sun Valley will be off to Italy next week for the World Masters Championship and to take in some Olympic events.





Muffy Ritz's Vamp Entourage at Billy Goat Classic



Natalia Naryshkina wins at Mt Itasca



Kate Pearson with Kikken Randall hot on her tail!