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Contacts
Jerry Wolf, Head Ski Coach, 406.657.1036, wolfj@rocky.edu
RMC Media Team, 406.657.1105, media@rocky.edu

Photo caption: Twelve students from the men’s and women’s Rocky Mountain College ski teams head to national championships this weekend in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Both RMC ski teams race in Nationals this weekend

BILLINGS, March 3, 2014 – The Rocky Mountain College men’s and women’s ski teams return to the national championship stage this weekend in Lake Placid, N.Y.

US Collegiate Skiing Association Championships challenge the 110 best of 4,700 athletes from the 180 colleges in the Association.

“We are all underclassmen but one,” said Coach Jerry Wolf. Wolf’s teams have gone to nationals 13 straight seasons. He has coached 25 years, but this team is one of his most able, he said.

“We get to Lake Placid Sunday morning and rest,” said Wolf. The trip saves $8,000 on group airfare by driving to Denver, then flying to Boston and driving through four states, rather than flying direct. “We train on the hill Monday, then Tuesday the women race giant slalom. We rent a condo together to save on motels. No matter what, we make our own breakfasts and lunches, sometimes a cold breakfast, but it’s nice to cook a breakfast of some sort when we can.”

“We race, train, travel, shop, cook, eat, basically live together during the ski season. The RMC ski racing family is ready to do some battlin’ out east,” Wolf said.

Team members carry a palette of skills beyond ski racing. They develop extreme competence in their sport through individual initiative to excel as a ski racer, but they also share decision-making maturity because they are accustomed to extended or international travel in groups.

The students include nine USCSA Academic All-Americans, five women and four men, whose grade point averages exceed 3.30. “Three are 4.00s,” said Wolf. “With the skills they’ve developed, if they’re in a good environment, then they’re going to perform well –
it’s automatic,” Wolf said. “It’s pretty exciting how they seem to get more and more driven to the team win.”

You can cheer from your computer: the USCSA Nationals races offer a live video stream from Lake Placid Wednesday through Saturday, and are also collected for later viewing at the website http://www.uscsa.com/national-championships/national-championships.

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