

Air Academy MTB Takes 2nd Place in Division 1 at the Haymaker Classic



The Air Academy High School Mountain Bike Team showcased immense grit, depth, and team spirit at the Haymaker Classic in Eagle, Colorado. Racing on a classic 6.0-mile loop featuring 600 feet of climbing per lap, fast-rolling singletrack, winding berms, and crowd-pleasing slalom descents, the team faced hot, dry, and dusty conditions. Despite a roster thinned by illness, Air Academy's depth shone through as riders across every category stepped up to capture 2nd place in Division 1 with 6,601 points—finishing just 57 points out of the top spot! The long day was made even sweeter by a finish-line favorite: endless free snow cones provided by a local Vail Valley realtor.

Middle School Mayhem



Quinncy prepares to race

The weekend featured the debut of the league's inaugural Middle School Mayhem race on a fast 3.5-mile course. Head Coach Josh, Coach Tom, and the Team Captains showed true leadership by guiding the young riders through their pre-ride to show them the ropes. During the dusty pre-ride, Miller Bilodeau suffered a crash resulting in a wrist injury that unfortunately left him unable to race the next day. Showing true team spirit, Miller and his family stayed at the venue all weekend to cheer on their teammates!

Quinncy Eimer represented Air Academy as the team's lone middle school finisher, laying down a fantastic run and having a blast in the new event.

JV Girls

Elora Walkup set a strong pace in the JV Girls race, riding with consistency to earn a 4th-place podium finish. Senior Georgia Swanson stepped up in a huge way for the team, putting in a powerful finish to take 16th place and becoming the team's 8th highest point scorer on the day.



Elora rails the corner



Georgia kicks up some dirt

Freshman Girls



Sophia Ugarte provided one of the most heart-pounding moments of the entire event. In an electrifying head-to-head sprint finish where the top three riders crossed within less than a second of each other, Sophia surged across the line to capture a 2nd-place podium spot, missing 1st place by a mere 0.16 seconds! Sophia gave everything she had, finishing with a huge smile.

Sophia in hot pursuit of the leader

JV Boys



Carsten setting the pace



Chase McAfee using the whole berm



Nico and Luke working together

Carsten Varcie led the Air Academy charge in JV Boys, earning a 3rd-place podium finish. Carsten also recorded the fastest single lap time for the entire Air Academy team all day, tearing through his opening lap in a blistering 23:25! Chase McAfee put on a relentless performance, recovering from a high-berm adventure to advance 5 positions and finish 21st. Jackson Wroten (24th), Luke Pajak (27th), and Nicolas "Nico" Vega Brautigam (28th) packed tightly together to deliver solid points. Senior Jackson Lorigan finished 45th, while Chase Moody made a massive charge from a 60th-place start up to 47th to keep his state qualification hopes alive. Keegan Foster rounded out the strong JV Boys squad in 67th

Varsity Boys



Jacob Lane leading an Aspen rider



Dylan gets airborne



Justin making up time

Jacob Lane put on a masterclass in overtaking, starting in 33rd position and slicing through the field to finish 19th. His 14-position gain earned him the 2nd highest Slingshot improvement score of the entire race meet! Dylan Hudson turned in a steady, hard-fought race to take 21st. Justin Tremblay encountered early mechanical trouble with a broken chain on lap one. After repairing his bike, Justin incurred a 5-minute outside assistance penalty, but once he got rolling again, he was absolute fire—throwing down blistering lap splits of 25:10 and 26:10 to finish 27th and secure crucial team points!

Varsity Girls

Ruby Harris paced the Varsity Girls over three demanding laps, earning a 5th-place podium finish and taking top scoring honors for the entire team. Legacy senior Nora Bots crossed right behind in 6th place with her signature finish-line smile, bringing home the team's second-highest individual point total.



Ruby leaves a cloud of dust in her wake



Nora sizes up the corner

Freshman Boys

Aiden Nelson sparked a major move in the Freshman Boys race, carving his way up from a 34th-place starting spot to finish 22nd, gaining an impressive 12 positions. Quincy Reed rode two consistent laps to finish 27th. Ransom Johnson placed 48th, and Jaxon MacDonald rounded out the category in 54th.



Quincy carves the corners



Jaxon gets it done with a smile

Sophomore Boys

Closing out a long, hot race day, the Sophomore Boys gave every ounce of energy left in the tank. Jake Leigh delivered an extraordinary performance, starting in 38th place and surging up to 22nd. His 16-position climb earned him the 4th highest Slingshot score of the race. Jake left everything on the course, having to sit down to catch his breath after crossing the finish line! Cody Judkins rode a strong, composed race, finishing less than a minute behind Jake, and taking 24th.



Jake Leigh focuses on the next corner



Cody nails the S-Curve

Summary

Air Academy's runner-up performance demonstrated the incredible depth, sportsmanship, and determination of this squad. When key riders faced setbacks or illness, teammates stepped up across every category to keep the team within striking distance of the top podium spot. A huge thank you goes out to our team photographer, Shae Lorigan, as well as our tireless coaches, parent volunteers, and visiting alumni—including Carson Pevoteaux (who served as a roving course marshal), Reed McAfee, Austin Leigh, and Keenan Swanson—for their support! The team is energized and ready to dig deep at Race 3, the Spring Valley Scramble in Glenwood Springs!