

Press Release: For Immediate Release

Animas High Ospreys Spread Their Wings Over High School Cycling

Sunday morning Chalk Creek Ranch was buzzing with high school mountain bike racers from all over the state for the Colorado High School Cycling League opener. Over a year of planning was rewarded with the smiles of 144 racers from 17 teams, and a handful of independent riders. The turnout was overwhelming.

Animas High Ospreys have 11 students in the program at the moment and are coached by Devo coaches Sarah Tescher and Chad Cheeney. They meet wednesday in the classroom for 45 minutes and friday on the trails from 2-530. This past weekend, the team traveled to Nathrop, Colorado and took part in the inaugural seasons race.

The Ospreys arrived Saturday afternoon to a campground packed full of High School students and their parents and friends. The team quickly found out that team uniforms had to be matching for a team to score points. They were not prepared for the rule and brainstormed an idea to buy some white t-shirts, create a stencil and spray paint the design. After the teams course pre-ride, Coach Chad made a drive to Buena Vista and bought the supplies. Parents cooked dinners, other campers started campfires to stay warm and spray paint was in the air. The Ospreys collaborated on the project and in the end, the new white and green uniforms were a success.

Osprey India Waller was the first racer for Animas High to take the line. After a fast first lap, India moved into second place and got within 30 seconds to Laural Rathburn, a fellow junior from Colorado Springs who had a similar result with India in Nathrop earlier this spring. India finished 2nd and her team was there at the finish line to congratulate her.

The boys were next. Coach Chad took the JV, Frosh and Soph boys out on a pre-ride and halfway through the warm-up, they got a call from a team Mom, and the other racers had begun to line up on the start line, over 45 minutes before the actual start time. The team twisted the throttle and quickly rode back to salvage a decent starting position. In the end, every Osprey was at the back of their respective category start line grouping. This however do not phase the team, and they were still all smiles and very eager to get the race under way.

Sophomore Stephan Davoust was the first Osprey male to race in the JV category, and managed to come through the start finish in fourth place after one lap, and this was after starting at the back of the 50 strong field. Unfortunately, a muscle tear in his quadriceps muscle forced him to pull out of the race to not further the damage.

In the Sophomore boys race, Nate Andrew rode to a very strong 4th place in his 4th race ever. Teammate Tucker Leavitt who races once a year as a personal challenge, came in a solid 11th place. Teammate and first time racer, Caleb Darland put in a strong effort and finished 29th.

In the Freshman Boys race, two Osprey first time racers took to the line and rode 2 laps with 40 others. Nathanael Rodd placed 19th and teammate Elijah Scott finished in 36th place.

After the final racers were across the line, many of the teams took to breaking down the race venue. Pulling stakes out of the ground, pulling course tape and course arrows, the kids and parents worked together to wrap up the weekend. The vibe on the weekend was just this, a team atmosphere where parents, coaches and kids were there to be a part and add to the brand new cycling league. After this first race it was evident that High School Cycling is here to stay in Colorado.

As of this time, the Overall Team results are unknown.

Osprey results;

dnf Stephan Davost JV Boys

2nd India Waller Frosh Girls

4th Nate Andrew Soph Boys

11th Tucker Leavitt Soph Boys

29th Caleb Darland Soph Boys

19th Natanael Rodd Frosh Boys

36th Elijah Scott Frosh Boys