



For Immediate Release

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MIDDAUGH AND ORTIZ CLAIM BEAVER CREEK SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE SERIES
10K CROWNS AS OVER 400 PARTICIPANTS TAKE TO THE STARTLINE

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado--- Josiah Middaugh of Vail, Colorado and Eagle's reigning snowshoe phenom, Anita Ortiz, nabbed top honors Saturday in the opening 10K competition of the 2003-2004 Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series under overcast skies with a hint of snow at Beaver Creek Resort.

Middaugh clocked in a time of 47:13 to claim victory, a mere minute in front of Silt's Bernie Boettcher at 48:30, while Denver's Greg Krause claimed third place with a time of 49:19. Boettcher claimed, "I did a marathon last week. Today, I went out there with rubber legs and was glad to do well. I'm very happy."

Ortiz, clocked in at 55:51, two minutes ahead of Lisa Goldsmith of Team Atlas and Nike ACG, while Helen Cospolich took third for the second year in a row. Ortiz represented her country last January as a member of the first U.S. Snowshoe Team at the World Championships in Italy.

In addition to the 10K competition, the Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series also features the East-West 5K Quest, the Kid's K trot and the Beaver Creek Resort Company "Dash for Cash". In the 5K race, Mike Moher of Eagle took top honors for the men, while Vicky Keleske recorded the victory in the ladies division. Moher, who has been snowshoeing for over 24 years, outdistanced Silt's Dennis Webb by five minutes, while Keleske posted a breathtaking 31 second winning margin over runner-up Heidi Vosbeck. Austin Gunnarson and Breanna Gunnarson captured the Kid's 1K trot, while Brian Gunnarson and Lisa Isom were "Dash for Cash" winners.

Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series

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Over 400 racers took to the starting line for the first race in the four-event series that culminates in March with the North American Snowshoe Championships. The second race in the Beaver Creek Adventure Snowshoe Series is slated for Saturday, January 10.

The 2003-2004 Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series is presented by Beaver Creek Resort, Atlas Snow-Shoe Company, BMW and Nike ACG and sponsored in part by East-West Resort, Peak Dentistry, Beaver Creek Merchants Association, Nature Valley Granola Bars, the Vail Daily, KZYR-The Zephyr and KVBA-TV8.

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