



For Immediate Release

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MIDDAUGH AND COSPOLICH CLAIM THE FIRST WINS OF THE SEASON IN BEAVER CREEK SNOWSHOE ADVENTURE SERIES

BEAVER CREEK, Colorado – Josiah Middaugh of Vail and Breckenridge’s Helen Cospolich, nabbed top honors Saturday in the opening 10K competition of the 2004-2005 Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series under a Colorado bluebird sky at Beaver Creek Resort.

No stranger to Series’ victory, Pedal Power’s Josiah Middaugh clocked in a winning time of 55:17 to take the tape just a few seconds in front of Bernie Boettcher of Silt at 55:55, while Boulder’s Travis Macy claimed third place with a time of 57:59.

On the Women’s side, Team Atlas and Nike ACG’s Helen Cospolich, also a podium favorite, clocked in at 1:08:49, less than a minute ahead of Lisa Isom of Vail at 1:09:16, while Karen Melliar-Smith of Denver went home in third with 1:10:37 in the Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series.

The surprise of the day came in the East-West 5K Quest as John Litschert of Fort Collins crossed the finish first with 43:17 and revealed, “It was my first snowshoe race. I didn’t realize there’d be this much climbing but I still kept a minute lead.” Series participants may want to look out for this newcomer in future races. Nebraska’s Benedictus Cook and Dennis Webb of Silt clocked in at 44:02 and 46:00 respectively.

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Other races included the Women's 5K, Kid's K trot and the "Dash for Cash". Kim McConnell of Erie took top honors in the Women's 5K, edging out Glenwood Spring's Heidi Vosbeck by only 4 seconds. Christian Kloser and Kerry Carmody won the Kid's K trot, while Benedictus Cook and Karen Opp were "Dash for Cash" winners.

Over 400 participants took to the starting line for the first race in the four-event series that continues Sunday, January 9, Saturday, February 12, and wraps up March 5 with the North American Snowshoe Championships.

The Beaver Creek Snowshoe Adventure Series is brought to you by Nike ACG, Atlas Snowshoe Company, Slifer Smith and Frampton Real Estate and sponsored in part by East West Resorts, Beaver Creek Merchants Association, Peak Dentistry, Steadman Hawkins Sports Medicine Clinic, Nature Valley Granola Bars, Starbucks, Ricola, the Vail Daily, KZYR-The Zephyr and KVBA-TV8.

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