



**For Immediate Release**

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**MORTENSON NABS MEN'S ULTRA 100 MOUNTAIN BIKE**  
**VICTORY—GRAINGER REPEATS AS WOMEN'S CHAMPION**

**BEAVER CREEK, Colorado**—There was no stopping Team Beaver Creek's Jimi Mortenson Saturday as he literally rolled to victory in the 2002 Ultra 100 Mountain Bike Race, while Michelle Grainger of Boulder became the event's first repeat champion, claiming top honors in the women's 100-mile division.

Mortenson bested a top field of ultra distance riders, temperatures in the low 90's, a course featuring over 13,000 feet of climbing and finally, a flat tire to record the win.

Riding on tubeless tires, Mortenson suffered the flat with slightly over eight miles to go to the finish line in Beaver Creek Resort. With only one CO2 cartridge left, he used half to re-inflate the tire in order to keep riding, emptying the cartridge to get him to the top of the final climb. From there, he rode the final three-mile downhill section on the flat tire, finishing in a time of 7 hours 30:24.3.

"I started the climb up June Creek," explained Mortenson, "and got a small lead and just tried to hang on to that. I didn't know if I could hold them off. I never thought I had it in the bag until I hit the pavement at the finish area."

Defending men's Ultra 100 champion Rishi Grewal of Marble, Colorado placed second, slightly over 13 minutes off the pace, in a time of 7:43:51.9, while Boulder's Pete Swenson claimed the third place spot, with a time of 7:45:05.6.

Grainger, who sat in second position for much of the race, was not even sure she was the leader until she came to the finish, posting a time of 9 hours 55:49.3.

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## Mortenson and Grainger Claim Ultra 100 Wins

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“I never knew until I came down into the finish that I was in first place,” offered Grainger, “because someone told me that I was in second. I kept saying to myself over and over, ‘I’m not going to let myself think I won’. I almost started crying when I crossed the finish line.”

Runner-up honors for the ladies went to Nancy Busching of Rapids City, South Dakota, in a time of 9:58:52.4, while Nina Baum of Albuquerque, New Mexico rounded out the top three with a time of 10:02:26.0.

A total of 500 riders took to the starting line in Beaver Creek for the start of 100-mile individual and team competition, along with the new 100-kilometer individual category. Conifer’s Ron Snow claimed the inaugural 100-K men’s title in a time of 5:56:27.6, while Jen Pinkus of Vail earned the women’s crown in 6:40:19.3.

Produced by Vail-based Highline Sports & entertainment, the 2002 Ultra 100 was presented by the Beaver Creek Resort Company, BMW, Nature Valley Granola Bars, Gatorade, PowerBar, Beaver Creek Merchants Association, VeloNews, Active Lifestyle Massage, Mountain Pedaler, Steadman Hawkins Sports Medicine Clinic, 4 Eagle Ranch, the Vail Daily, and KVBA TV8.

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For additional information on the 2002 Ultra 100, visit [www.ultra-100.com](http://www.ultra-100.com). For more information on Highline Sports & Entertainment, please contact (970) 476-6797 or visit [www.gohighline.com](http://www.gohighline.com).