Jitloff takes third in combined

By U.S. Ski Team

WINTER PARK, Colo. – Colby Granstrom (Lake Stevens, WA) produced a blazing second run through heavy snow to win the men's slalom title by 1.33 seconds to close the men's competition at the 2011 Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships.

Tommy Ford (Bend, OR) was second in slalom but earned the combined title with the fastest added time from both super G and slalom. Ford was also victorious in both giant slalom and super G in Winter Park. NCAA giant slalom champion Seppi Stiegler (Jackson Hole, WY) was third matching his sister Resi's result in the women's slalom.

Top junior honors went to fourth place finisher Michael Ankeny (Deep Haven, MN). The Western Region produced 2929 points to top both the East and Rocky/Central Regions for the Tom Garner Memorial Trophy.

Official results, Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships, Winter Park

Slalom

1. Colby Granstrom, Lake Stevens, WA, 1:42.67

2. Tommy Ford, Bend, OR, 1:44.00

3. Seppi Steigler, Jackson Hole, WY, 1:44.30

–

Juniors

1. Michael Ankeny, Deephaven, MN, 1:44.44

2. Juho-Pekka Penttinen, Finland, 1:46.94

3. Taylor Wunsch, Swanton, VT, 1:47.88

Combined

1. Tommy Ford, Bend, OR

2. Colby Granstrom, Lake Stevens, WA

3. Tim Jitloff, Reno, NV

—

Juniors

1. Michael Ankeny, Deephaven, MN

2. Taylor Wunsch, Swanton, VT

3. Bobby Farrell, West Windsor, VTa

Tom Garner Memorial Trophy

1. Western Region – 2969

2. Eastern Region – 1674

3. Rocky/Central Region – 1416

Santa Rosa junior comes in third

By U.S. Ski Team

WINTER PARK, Colo. – Sixteen-year-old junior racer Mikaela Shiffrin (Burke Mountain, VT) took a first run lead to victory

in the women’s slalom to close the 2011 Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships in snowy Winter Park.

On Saturday evening, Shiffrin was awarded the Ski Racing Magazine Junior of the Year award at the annual athlete banquet sharing the honor with Ryan Cochran-Siegle (Starksboro, VT). Four-time Olympian Sarah Schleper (Vail, CO), 32, was second and earned the combined title with the fastest paired super G and slalom times. Resi Stiegler was third, matching her younger brother Seppi’s result in the men’s slalom. The top scoring region in the four-day championships was the West, earning the Tom Garner Memorial Trophy.

Official results, Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships, Winter Park, April 3

Slalom

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, Burke Mountain, VT, 1:42.14

2. Sarah Schleper, Vail, CO, 1:42.14

3. Resi Stiegler, Jackson Hole, WY, 1:43.95

—

Juniors

1. Mikaela Shiffrin, Burke Mountain, VT, 1:42.14

2. Devin Delaney, North Conway, NH, 1:48.25

3. Lizzie Kistler, Santa Rosa, CA, 1:48.37

Combined

1. Sarah Schelper, Vail, CO

2. Laurenne Ross, Klamath Falls, OR

3. Kiley Staples, Park City, UT

–

Juniors

1. Sydney Staples, Park City, UT

2. Emma Naatz, Salt Lake City, UT

3. Lila Lapanja, Incline Village, NV

Tom Garner Memorial Trophy

1. Western Region – 2969

2. Eastern Region – 1674

3. Rocky/Central Region – 1416

Ski report: Sunny spring day



It looks like a beautiful day to get out on the slopes. Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Pre-Amgen event pits cyclists

against legends on Tahoe route

Cycling enthusiasts can kick off the Amgen Tour of California in style during the Start at the Top – Lake Tahoe Legends Ride May 14.



The Legends Ride allows participants to ride the Stage 1 course and pedal elbow to elbow with cycling legends and dignitaries, including Bobby Julich, Sky ProCycling Race Coach and 2004 Olympic bronze medalist; and John Howard, who rode on the 1968, 1972 and 1976 Olympic teams, set the world 24-hour cycling distance record of 593 miles and finished second in the Race Across America (1982), which he co-founded. Other legends include Max Jones, Mike Neel, David Brink and Roland Della Santa.

The Legends Ride is produced by TGFT Productions and Bike the West and is fully supported with rest stops, technical support, first aid and support and gear assistance.

Options include a 72-mile roadway route around Lake Tahoe and a 35-mile ride that transfers participants from South Shore to North Lake Tahoe via the Tahoe Queen paddle-wheeler to cycle around East Shore and finish in Stateline. A sightseeing boat cruise is available for non-cyclists.

The event is open to the first 1,000 cyclists who sign-up online by April 30. Registration is $125/person for the 72-mile ride, and $140/person for the Boat Cruise plus 35-mile option, which is expected to sell-out.

Giants World Series trophy a big hit in Tahoe

By Susan Wood

It was a win-win Saturday.

Thousands of the orange-and-black faithful enjoyed a dominant 10-0 win by San Francisco Giants pitcher Matt Cain over their rival Los Angeles Dodgers, while hundreds of fans remembered last year's performance by coming out to view the World Series Championship trophy on tour in South Lake Tahoe that afternoon.

The line to see the cherished symbol formed at 9am when the city recreation complex opened with first-in-line, die-hard fans Paula Bruyn and Jahn Henderson of South Lake Tahoe. It wrapped around the building, which was decorated in orange and black along with a sea of fans adorned in Giants gear.

"Matty's gonna do it," Henderson predicted of Saturday's game, while waiting in line. He had the confidence that Cain would bring home a win on such a big day for he and Bruyn.



A line of Giants fans wrapped around

the city Parks and Recreation complex to view the World Series Championship trophy on Saturday. Photo/Susan Wood

At the 2pm trophy showing start time, both Giants and city parks staff allowed the loyalists to enter the room to the sounds of whoops and whistles. In sheer Tahoe style, dogs, babies and others reading books or watching Saturday's game passed the time until it was their turn to have a photo taken with the trophy.

Giants tour organizer Casey Conroy said it's like bringing a rock star to town. The trophy is wrapping up its multi-city tour that has taken it from San Francisco to New York and back. It's the first time the Giants have won the World Series in the Bay Area. The team left New York in 1957. Three years before, the New York team won the World Series.

Mick Flaire, "Bowler Bob," remembers that time as if it were yesterday. He happened to catch opening day in 1962 when Willie Mays hit a home run during a 6-0 shutout. Hence, the true baseball fan recalls statistics like a family recipe.

"I literally waited since I was 3 months old for this championship," said the Brisbane resident, who came up to Lake Tahoe for the weekend. He now has a place to perhaps stay as he made friends waiting in line with local sports enthusiast Don Bosson, who taught Little League baseball for 16 years.

"Here's my card," Bosson said, as he handed Flaire his business card. Flaire was holding a "Giants" labeled bowling

ball. Bosson said he feels like he knows Flaire because the Bay Area resident frequently calls in to KNBR, the station with a Giants radio show.

“I’ve listened to him on the radio forever,” Bosson said.

After she viewed the trophy, Lyn Maher of Incline Village moved over to a cardboard cutout of veteran first baseman Will Clark to have her photo taken with the Giants prop.

“I’ve been heartbroken since 2002. But all the pain and suffering is gone now,” she said, referring to when the Giants lost the Series to the Anaheim Angels, which later became the Los Angeles Angels. With a photo of the trophy now, Maher has even “one-upped” her sister who got to see the Giants win in Game 2 of the World Series at home.

She has the right to claim the fame.

“I named my cat after him,” she said, pointing to the life-size Clark cutout situated behind the trophy presentation.

All types got to have their photograph taken.

There was Argo, the police dog on a break from duty. Sandra Sandoval of Sacramento brought “Clutch” the boxer up for the weekend. Dustin Robinson pulled into the recreation center parking lot and asked if he could bring 1-year-old Roscoe in for a photo op. His request was granted, and it appeared the pit bull was happy.

The award for the youngest person might have gone to 7-month-old Zephyr, who showed up in Giants fashion gear reading: “My first Giants T-shirt.”

“They’ve been world champions his entire life,” said a wild-eyed father, Bill Pappani of Nevada City as his wife, Laura, took in the long-awaited moment by fixing the baby’s shirt.

Once wasn’t enough to go through the line for South Shore

resident Sue Novasel – despite her husband Robert not accompanying her. Being from Cleveland, he's an Indians fan.

"He's just jealous," a defiant Novasel described her husband. She returned the second time around with her Giants buddy, mom Vernice Rianda. Mom knew to hold up the strike-out "K" foam finger ornament, while her daughter watched Saturday's game on a Sling Box program. A crowd had gathered around Novasel to watch the tiny screen on her smart phone.

Outside the recreation center, another attraction was two San Francisco men – one referring to himself as Ira Supreme – who have followed the trophy on its multi-city tour. Wrapped in full Giants gear including a cape, "Supreme" said they're groupies "trying to sleep with the trophy." At the same time, the buddies were making money selling Giants shirts.

After all, the team is based in San Francisco – the city of character. South Lake Tahoe seemed to fit right in.

Mancuso on roll with record 13th win in GS

WINTER PARK, Colo. – Squaw Valley's Julia Mancuso took charge again Saturday to win the super G at the 2011 Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships in sunny Winter Park.

It was the record 13th U.S. title of Mancuso's career, third in super G and second in two days after winning the giant slalom on Friday.

Leanne Smith (Conway, NH) was second followed by Stacey Cook (Mammoth Mountain, CA) for her second podium of the weekend.

Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard club's Katie Ryan (Aspen, CO) finished ninth overall, yet took top junior honors as the technical course forced 18 racers off course. The Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships conclude Sunday with men's and women's slalom.

Official results, Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships, Winter Park, April 2

Super G

1. Julia Mancuso, Squaw Valley, CA, 1:13.34

2. Leanne Smith, Conway, NH, 1:13.54

3. Stacey Cook, Mammoth Mountain, CA, 1:13.69

—

Juniors

1. Katie Ryan, Aspen, CO, 1:17.56

2. Libby Gibson, Bondville, VT, 1:18.80

3. Taylor Rapley, New Zealand, 1:19.29

— U.S. Ski Team

Engel takes 3rd in juniors

WINTER PARK, Colo. — Tommy Ford (Bend, OR) boosted captured his second U.S. title in three days and boosted career total to five with a super G victory at the 2011 Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships.

Ford closed the 2010 season with U.S. championships in giant

slalom, slalom and super combined and has now captured the 2011 crowns for giant slalom and super G. NorAm overall champion Tommy Biesemeyer (Keene, NY) was second followed by NorAm super G winner Ryan Cochran-Siegle in soft snow as Winter Park boasted a bluebird day.

Cochran-Siegle, who was also the top junior on the day, called the race special as his uncle Bobby Cochran will be inducted into the U.S. Ski and Snowboard Hall of Fame later tonight in a ceremony held in Sun Valley, ID. The Putnam U.S. Alpine Championships conclude Sunday with men's and women's slalom.

Official results, Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships, Winter Park, April 2

Super G

1. Tommy Ford, Bend, OR, 1:10.10

2. Tommy Biesemeyer, Keene, NY, 1:10.20

3. Ryan Cochran-Siegle, Starksboro, VT, 1:10.52

Juniors

1. Ryan Cochran-Siegle, Starksboro, VT, 1:10.52

2. Brennan Rubie, Salt Lake City, UT, 1:10.55

3. Mark Engel, Truckee, CA, 1:11.95

– U.S. Ski Team

The Giant line is already forming

Updated as of 10:30am from March 7 Lake Tahoe News article

By Susan Wood

When the South Lake Tahoe Parks and Recreation Complex opened this morning at 9am, Paula Bruyn was standing there. Others soon followed to catch a glimpse or take their photograph with the World Series trophy won by the San Francisco Giants last baseball season.

While the Giants begin their quest to repeat as World Series Champions with a current road trip to Los Angeles, the World Series trophy is in town on its multi-city tour presented by Visa. It began Jan. 4 in San Francisco and has included stops throughout Northern California, New York, Arizona and Oregon.

“We didn’t know what to expect– whether people would be spending the night,” Bruyn said, while standing in line. “We had to make it. It was our last chance.”

At age 53, the Giants fan of six years remembers the days of camping out to get good concert seats. She has a game in May this year secured at AT&T Park where they play. For now, it’s all about last year.

The yesteryear dreams of Willie Mays and Willie McCovey and the modern-day reality that a red rally thong worn by outfielder Aubrey Huff and the lyrical, off-the-wall antics of a pitching closer named Brian Wilson led to the San Francisco Giants taking home the grand prize in last year’s baseball season.

The trophy will be seen in the gymnasium at 1180 Rufus Allen Blvd. from 2-4pm.



Fans will have an opportunity to have an official photograph taken with the trophy and will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Only one photo per group will be permitted to keep the lines moving.

Giants fans are advised to get there early as staff will have to cut off the line to close the viewing at 4pm.

There’s no touching the trophy.

The event is free and open to public.

The city beefed up security in addition to the Giants own unit.

“It’s quite an honor – the fact that they thought of little South Lake Tahoe (for the tour),” said city Councilman Tom Davis, who with four decades in town considers this event the largest in the city’s sporting history.

Details can be found at www.sfgiants.com.

Ski report: Wet and windy



Rain or snow? Probably both. It could get nasty up high, as a lake wind advisory is in effect until 8pm. Call ahead for lift information. Here is the ski report from Curtis Fong, the Guy from Tahoe.

Mancuso picks up her 12th title

WINTER PARK, CO – Olympic champion Julia Mancuso of Squaw Valley overcame a 1.52 first run deficit to win her 12th U.S. title with giant slalom victory at the 2011 Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships.

It was Mancuso's third consecutive U.S. giant slalom championship and extended the American record for U.S. titles she set last season when she bumped a mark held by Andrea Mead Lawrence for 55 years.

First run leader Sarah Schleper (Vail, CO) finished second with Stacey Cook (Mammoth Mountain, CO) third in sunny Winter Park. U.S. Development Team racer Abby Ghent (Edwards, CO) earned top junior honors ahead of Burke Mountain Academy athlete Mikaela Shiffrin. The U.S. championships continue Saturday with men's and women's super G.

OFFICIAL RESULTS

Putnam Investments U.S. Alpine Championships

Winter Park, CO – April 1, 2011

Giant Slalom

1. Julia Mancuso, Squaw Valley, CA, 2:21.61

2. Sarah Schleper, Vail, CO, 2:22.22

3. Stacey Cook, Mammoth Mountain, CA, 2:23.55

—

Juniors

1. Abby Ghent, Edwards, CO, 2:25.42

2. Mikaela Shiffin, Burke Mountain, VT, 2:26.55

3. Devin Delaney, North Conway, NH, 2:27.05

—U.S. Ski Team