



Photo by Melanie Sagoonick

**EAST MEETS WEST —** Western Regional Champions Felicia Ione (66) of White Mountain, Mallory Conger (58) of Nome, Bianca Trowbridge (59) of Nome, and Summer Sagoonick (64) of Unalakleet take on Interior Champs Sarah Brown (53) and Jesslyn West (52) of Galena at the 2013 Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships in White Mountain.

## Schmidt and Daniels turn WISA Ski and Biathlon Championship gold medals into Arctic Winter Games tickets

By Keith Conger

Being forced to use right handed rifles at three Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Association (WISA) championships, Nome high schooler Rosa Schmidt, a natural lefthander, had never hit more than four targets at one of the rural state biathlon races.

Schmidt attended the international Arctic Winter Games in Whitehorse last March in the sport of snowshoe racing, but wanted to attend next year's games as part of Team Alaska's biathlon team.

So, she decided to change her shooting luck by securing a right handed biathlon rifle from the club in Anchorage, and learned how to shoot right handed.

After testing her new technique during five biathlon races at Kincaid Park in Anchorage this winter, Schmidt found the target eight times out of 10 in the WISA biathlon race. The improvement not only led to her first WISA Championships biathlon gold medal, but also earned her a spot on the 2014 Arctic Winter Games ski biathlon team.

Being bested by Schmidt by seven seconds in the regional ski race the week before was all the motivation Unalakleet freshman Alyeska Daniels needed to put together a stunning victory over Schmidt in the 8-kilometer ski race on the first day of the competition.

The one minute 23 second margin of victory in the race, along with a blazing fast split in the team relay, not only helped Daniels earn her first high school girls Skimeister Award (skiing's equivalent of the MVP), but helped her secure a spot on Team Alaska's 2014 cross-country skiing team.

Alyeska's older sister Katie captured the bronze medal in each individual event, helping Unalakleet earn its first high school girls' WISA team trophy, while at the same time ending Nome's three-year run.

The efforts in the biathlon race also led the elder Daniels to a return trip to the Arctic Winter Games. She competed in Whitehorse on the ski biathlon team in 2012 and earned a spot on the snowshoe biathlon team for the 2014 games.

The high school boys' races were dominated by Kaleb Korta and his Galena teammates. Korta won all three races, earning him a history-making third straight WISA Skimeister. No skier in WISA's 27 years had earned more Skimeister Awards by the end of their freshman year.

Korta's total keeps the possibility alive that he will end up with six WISA Skimeister Awards, breaking the record of five currently held by Emerson Conger of Nome.

Similarly, Alyeska Daniels' second Skimeister award was historic as she finds herself one away from the most ever earned by a WISA girl. The record of three is currently held by Trish Gray of White Mountain, Nikki Fennimore of Galena, and Anjoli Guthrie of Tanana.

Korta used a double bronze medal effort by teammate Isaac McElwee to capture the team trophy, a first for a high school squad from Galena. McElwee's efforts earned him a spot on Team Alaska's snowshoe biathlon squad.

Both the girls' and boys' junior high (5th - 8th grade) Skimeister awards were determined by individual splits in the team relay.

Although Unalakleet's Sikulik Johnson easily won the ski race on the first day of the competition, Jacob Moos of Galena shot clean (10 out of 10) in the biathlon the next day, winning that event.

Johnson eventually outdid Moos in the relays and captured the Skimeister award, (and a trip to the 2014 Arctic Winter Games by virtue of his day one victory), but his team took second place to the boys from Galena.

Galena's junior high boys team victory was their fifth all-time, tying them for the record, which had been held by White Mountain.

In the junior high girls division, Galena teammates Jesslyn West and Sarah Brown traded victories in the first two races. Brown was able to best her teammate by a scant 4 seconds in the relay splits to capture her first Skimeister Award. The teammates helped guide Galena to the team trophy as well.

A young and inexperienced junior high girls squad from Nome fared

well at the state meet, taking a bronze medal in the team relays and second place in the team standings. The squad was lead by a fifth place finish in the biathlon by Bianca Trowbridge and a fifth best individual split in the relays by Mallory Conger.

Besides Moos, only two biathletes

shot clean during the biathlon competition. First year skier Shayna Warnke-Green of Nome used her fine shooting to post her best biathlon finish of the year, while Jennifer Hanson used her fine effort to help the White Mountain junior high girls to third place in the team standings.

The coveted Sportsmanship Trophy was earned by the team from Saint Michael.

Biathletes at WISA events stop to shoot twice around a course using .22 caliber rifles. During each shooting session, the athlete takes 5 shots

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Photo by Melanie Sagoonick

**GETTIN' OUT FAST —** 2013 WISA Skimeister Kaleb Korta of Galena (2) gets out ahead of 2012 WISA Skimeister Asa Bergamaschi of White Mountain (10) in the eight kilometer ski race at the Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships. Korta's teammate Isaac McElwee and Saint Michaels Dominic Richardson (6) are in pursuit.



Photo by Melanie Sagoonick

**HEAVY MEDAL —** Katie Daniels of Unalakleet leads Rosa Schmidt of Nome, and sister Aly Daniels, in the biathlon race at the 27th Annual Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships in White Mountain. Schmidt would go on to hit 8 of 10 shots and win the race. Her efforts would earn her a spot on Team Alaska's ski biathlon team at next year's Arctic Winter Games. Aly, who won the ski race the day before, earned a spot on Team Alaska's cross-country ski team. Katie's double bronze efforts earned her a spot on Team Alaska's snowshoe biathlon team.



Photo by Keith Conger

**YOUNG SHARP SHOOTER —** First year skier and biathlete Shayna Warnke-Green of Nome shoots clean (10 of 10) in the biathlon race at the 27th annual Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships in White Mountain. The sharp shooting helped the young athlete place 11th in the event.

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• Ski and Biathlon

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at 4.5 inch targets from a distance of 50 meters, and must learn to control their breathing which is obviously elevated due to the skiing or running. Missed shots result in short, but timeconsuming penalty loops. Occurring every other year, the Arctic Winter Games is a high profile, circumpolar sports competition for northern and arctic athletes. The games celebrate sport and promote social and cultural exchange.

The Arctic Winter Games started in 1970 with just a handful of events, and only three contingencies (Yukon, Northwest Territories and Alaska). Last year over 2,000 ath-

letes gathered from nine northern “nations” to compete in 21 different sports. Arctic Winter Games participation is limited to regions located north of the 55th parallel. Joining the three original members are Greenland, Russia, Northern Alberta, Nunavut (including Baffin Island), Nunavit (Northern Quebec), and the Sámpí Nation (northern Scandinavia). The Nome Ski and Biathlon team thanks the Friends of the NRA and the Nome Sportsman Association for their support of rural biathlon.



Photo by Melanie Sagoonick

**BIG FINISH—** Nome's Anna Peterson catches White Mountain's Anjoli Agloinga just before the finish line.

WISA 2013 Team Results					
High School BoysSki Race	Place	Biathlon	PlaceTeam	Place Relay	Place Final
Galena	1		1	1	1
White Mountain	2		2	2	2
St. Michael	3		3	3	3
Teller	4		4	4	4
High School Girls					
Unalakleet	1		1	1	1
Nome	2		2	2	2
Nenana	3		3	3	3
Jr. High School Boys					
Galena	1		1	1	1
Unalakleet	2		2	2	2
White Mountain	3		3	3	3
Koyuk	4		4	4	4
Jr. High Girls					
Galena	1		1	1	1
Nome	2		2	3	2 (tie breaker)
White Mountain	2		3	2	3 (tie breaker)
Unalakleet	4		4	4	4

Nome Seniors named to the Alaska Basketball Coaches Associaton Senior All-Star Game

Nome Seniors Devynn Johnson and Dominique Hall have been named to the Alaska Basketball Coaches Association Senior All-Star Game. Games will take place in Anchorage and Wasilla on April 12-13. The Senior All-Star game was a fixture of Alaska Basketball in the 1980s, disappeared in the 1990s, and was re-instated beginning with the 2010-11 season. Past Nome basketball players that were selected to play in the Senior All-Star games include: Uly Hall (86-87), Tim Sullivan and Christian Leckband (10-11), and Nathan Blandford (11-12). Dominique Hall is a four time Class 3A State Tournament participant. He has helped lead his teams to a combined 86-24 record over the last four years. Senior year: He was the Nanooks leading scorer (16.6 ppg) and rebounder (8.4 rpg). He led the Nanooks to a win over Bonnie Lake (WA) with 25 points and 21 rebounds, setting a school record for total and offensive rebounds in a game. Hall recorded 10 “double-doubles” this season. He scored a career high 32 points vs Valdez in the championship game of the Valdez Elks Tournament. Hall then led the Nanooks to a 21-8 record and 4th place in the class 3A State Tournament. He was named 1st Team All-Western Conference and 2nd

Team All-State as a senior. Named to the All-Tournament teams in every tournament that he played in this season (Sitka, Monroe, Valdez, Nome, Western Conference, and Class 3A State Tournament). Devynn Johnson averaged 14 points, 5 rebounds, 3 assists, 2 steals, and 2 blocks per game for the Lady Nanooks during her senior year. Devynn’s leadership on the floor was missed after a late season injury sidelined the 4 time team MVP. Her absence reiterated her importance to the team’s chemistry on both defense and offense. She helped lead the Nanooks to an 18-9 record. Congratulations to Lady Nanooks and Devynn Johnson for her selection to the AABC 2013 Senior All-Star Game.

SENIOR ALL-STAR GAME SCHEDULE

April 12 - Games at Grace Christian High School

Girls 5:30 p.m.  
Boys 7:30 p.m.

April 13 - Games at Wasilla High School

Girls 6:00 p.m.  
Boys 8:00 p.m.



Photo by Menanie Sagoonick

**BRIGHT FUTURE ON A CLOUDY DAY —** Young western Alaska skiers Mallory Conger (58) of Nome, Felicia Ione (66) of White Mountain, and Summer Sagoonick (64) of Unalakleet, chase Jesslyn West of Galena up the steep first hill in White Mountain at the 27th Annual Western Interior Ski and Biathlon Championships in White Mountain. Galena won the team competition while Nome, White Mountain and Unalakleet would take 2nd, 3rd, and 4th places.

WISA 2013 Individual Results							
Name	Site	Race Time	Place				
High School Boys				Jerome Takak	Elim	0:17:19	9
Kaleb Kort	Galena	0:25:09	1	Fisher Dill	Unalakleet	0:18:53	10
Asa Bergamaschi	White Mt.	0:26:20	2	Bradley Thiemeyer	Koyuk	0:18:55	11
Isaac McElwee	Galena	0:28:34	3	Payton Commack	Unalakleet	0:19:00	12
Tim Schmidt	Nome	0:29:11	4	Tony Haugen	Unalakleet	0:19:02	13
Dominic Richardson	St. Michaels	0:30:20	5	Mike Simon	White Mt.	0:20:26	14
Joseph Apfelbeck	Galena	0:33:41	6	Aaron Munter Jr.	Galena	0:20:50	15
Aaron Bergamaschi	White Mt.	0:33:42	7	Dylan Mudge	Nenana	0:22:23	16
Ryan Topkok	Teller	0:37:15	8	Ed Titus	White Mt.	0:28:38	17
John Washington	St. Michaels	0:38:57	9	Gabe Egli	White Mt.	0:30:20	18
Chester Topkok	Teller	0:41:43	10	Gerald Kimoktoak	Koyuk	0:33:05	19
High School Girls				Jr. High Girls			
Alyeska Daniels	Unalakleet	0:28:15	1	Jesslyn West	Galena	0:13:47	1
Rosa Schmidt	Nome	0:30:46	2	Sara Brown	Galena	0:14:16	2
Katie Daniels	Unalakleet	0:32:28	3	Kiana Kort	Galena	0:14:20	3
Carolyn Sam	Galena	0:32:45	4	Felicia Ione	White Mt.	0:14:59	4
Hannah Tozier	Nome	0:34:53	5	Summer Sagoonick	Unalakleet	0:15:28	5
Jannelle Trowbridge	Nome	0:35:59	6	Bianca Trowbridge	Nome	0:15:48	6
Rayna Buck-Nassuk	White Mt.	0:39:16	7	Mallory Conger	Nome	0:15:49	7
Alexis Hutson	Nome	0:47:57	8	Julia Riddle	Galena	0:16:00	8
Anika Mudge	Nenana	0:49:10	9	Jennifer Hanson	White Mt.	0:16:52	9
Patricia Alexia	Nenana	1:02:02	10	Kameron Reitan	Galena	0:18:19	10
Jr. High Boys				Rhiannon Noyakuk	Nome	0:18:43	11
Sikulik Johnson	Unalakleet	0:11:29	1	Shayna Warnke-Green	Nome	0:18:50	12
Jacob Moos	Galena	0:12:26	2	Karlee Katchatag	Unalakleet	0:19:21	13
Trenton Ambrose	Galena	0:13:51	3	Maya Kralik	Nome	0:20:04	14
Walter Lord	Galena	0:14:03	4	Melody Bergamaschi	WMO/EXH	0:21:42	15
Joshua Prentice	White Mt.	0:14:45	5	Julie Amaktoolik	Elim	0:22:21	16
Camden Bjorgen	Galena	0:15:39	6	Anna Peterson	Nome	0:23:08	17
Julius Ione	WMO	0:16:17	7	Anjoli Agloinga	White Mt.	0:23:09	18
Aidan Ivanoff	Unalakleet	0:16:24	8	Jaiden Huntington	Galena	0:24:44	19
				Yvette Barr-Apok	White Mt.	0:27:02	20

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