

MBSEF Skier, Emily Hyde Scores 6th at US Nationals, Twice

MBSEF skier Emily Hyde returns from the US National Championships with two sixth place finishes in the U18 age groups. With those two finishes she came out ranked 9th in her age group, barely missing qualifying for a US Ski Team development trip to Finland. This year's US Nationals also function as Olympic tryouts.

In the Women's 5k Classic on Saturday Hyde finished 39th overall and 6th in the U18. Sunday in the 1.5k ladies skate she finished xx overall and xx in the U18. Wednesday in the 5k mass start junior only skate race she finished 7th overall and 6th in the U18's. MBSEF coach Dan Simoneau said, "she got off to a slow start but she charged up the final climbs moving from 17th to 7th. With a little better luck at the start, she would be going to Finland. She was one of the strongest skiers out there today."

Hyde moved up to 11th overall from 18th a year ago and summarized missing the trip to Finland with, "I really wanted to make the trip, but I'll just have to come back next year and qualify for the World Junior Team."

MBSEF skiers Skyler Kenna and Alec Wiltz, both students at Oregon State University - Cascades who ski on the school's club team, competed at US Nationals in the U20 division. Kenna finished 30th in the 15k classic, 34th in the skate sprint and 33rd in the 10k skate. Wiltz finished 35th in the 15k Classic, 40th in the skate sprint and 43rd in the 10k skate.

Hyde is now prequalified for the USSA Junior Nationals in Stowe, Vt. in March. Wiltz and Kenna will compete on the OSU-Cascades and MBSEF teams this weekend as they seek to qualify for the USCSA College Nationals and USSA Junior Nationals at the Bavarian Cup in Leavenworth, Wash.