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**Graefnings Wins Fifth Consecutive Race**

*Senior takes first in 5km classical at New Mexico Invitational.*

**RED RIVER, N.M.** – Senior Maria Graefnings took the 5km classical title Friday at the New Mexico Invitational in Red River, N.M., and the Utes are currently in second place after the first day of races with 393 points. The Utes trail the host New Mexico Lobos by 57 points heading into the final day of action.

Graefnings was victorious in her fifth consecutive race to start this season after posting a time 16:51.7, which was 26.9 seconds ahead of the runner-up. Sarah MacCarthy posted a fifth-place finish in a time of 18:06.6 while Rose Kemp rounded out the Utes' scoring in 16th place at a time of 19:05.4. Parker Tyler finished 21st at 19:15.0 and Madeleine Talking turned in a 24th-place run at 19:34.2.

Didrik Smith led Utah in the men's 10k classical race, crossing the finish line fourth in a time of 29:16.5. Tom Smith followed with a time of 29:52.7 for ninth place, while Rolf Figi was the Ute's third scorer in the race in 11th place at time of 29:58.9. Ian Havlick claimed 13th place after crossing the finish line in 30:17.9.

All four of Utah's competitors in the women's slalom race finished in the top seven. Tii-Maria Romar turned in a runner-up performance with a time of 1:38.59. Anna Kocken was the fourth-place finisher, .60 seconds behind her teammate. Sofia Smith was the third Ute skier in the top nine, placing sixth with a time of 1:40.45 to complete the Utes' scoring. Jaime DuPratt followed Smith immediately and finished seventh with a time of 1:40.86

Ryan Wilson was Utah's highest in the men's slalom race in 12th place with a combined time of 1:36.59, which was only .02 behind the 11th-place finisher. Torjus Krogdahl took 21st place with a time of 1:43.23.

The New Mexico Invitational concludes tomorrow with the nordic freestyle and a second round of slalom races for the alpine skiers. First runs in both events begin at 9 a.m. MT.

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