

Christopher Wrobel

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To: Christopher Wrobel
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Paper: Anchorage Daily News (AK)
Message: 100-MILE SKI RACE NIP-AND-TUCK AFFAIR WENRICK EDGES CRAMER BY 4 MINUTES TO WIN
Author: BETH BRAGG
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Staff
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Ev Wenrick skied into the Summit Lake Lodge at 11:19 p.m. Monday, 61 hours and 22 minutes after he left the starting line of the 100-mile Alaska Mountain Wilderness Classic ski race. No TV cameras or cheering fans were there to meet the winner of the fifth annual race, only the lodge's bartender and its sole customer. And the bartender didn't even buy him a beer.

Wenrick didn't stay thirsty for long, though. Four minutes behind him was David Cramer, the race's second-place finisher and a man who knows how to celebrate.

"Dave bought me a beer. Bought me a couple, in fact," Wenrick said Thursday from his Fairbanks home.

Four skiers attempted and three finished this year's race, which featured a series of rivers and mountain passes. Seven hours behind Wenrick, 51, and Cramer, 46, was Rourke Williams of Fairbanks, who finished in two days and 20 hours. Jay Hughes of Fairbanks started but turned back about eight miles into the race because of a lack of snow.

Wenrick said the snowless conditions didn't last long. "We ran into excellent snow," he said.

Wenrick led after the first day of racing Saturday, but chose to camp early Monday evening and both Cramer and Williams passed him and camped several miles ahead.

"The next day I had to cover that distance and get ahead of them," Wenrick said. "It was a long day."

About 17 hours long. And once Wenrick grabbed the lead from Cramer, he almost gave it back.

"I only had about three miles left, and about halfway through I started stumbling. I almost lost it," said Wenrick, the victim of fatigue, icy trails and darkness. "He re-waxed and almost caught me."

Wenrick, who teaches skiing and canoeing in Fairbanks, didn't mind that he didn't reap great rewards for his victory, his first in four attempts in the race.

"You get the pleasure of traveling through some exquisite country," he said. "There's no

reward, we have a T-shirt made up, but it's kind of a unique way to travel (by skis) late (in the winter) and see new country.

"There's no trail. It's orienteering, wilderness camping, skiing. We're the last great race as far as I'm concerned."

Local skaters take gold

Six Anchorage youth, competing for the Alaska Association of Figure Skaters, brought home gold medals from the annual Sourdough Figure Skating Competition in Fairbanks April 19-21.

Hilary Holcomb led the local skaters, placing first in all four intermediate ladies events: figures, freestyle, combined and showcase.

Bridgette Wies, Valerie Lemon, Kelly Kellicut, Kim Desrochers and Anne Ramos were also gold-medal winners.

Sourdough Figure Skating Competition

AAFS results

Non-test girls (age 7 and under) Bridgette Wies, first place in figures, third in combined and showcase; Valerie Lemon, first in freestyle and combined, second in figures. Non-test girls (10 and under) Kelly Kellicut, first in figures, second in freestyle, combined and showcase. Non-test girls (11 and under) Melinda Young, second in all four events. Preliminary girls (10 and under) Kim Desrochers, first in figures, third in combined and showcase. Preliminary girls (11 and older) (Group A) Tiffini Jackson, fourth in freestyle. (Group B) Samantha Pestinger, second in freestyle and fourth in combined. Sub-juvenile girls Megan Clark, fourth in figures, freestyle and combined. Juvenile girls Chrystal Reed, second in all four events. Intermediate ladies Hilary Holcomb, first in all four events; Dana Lindemann, second in showcase, fourth in figures, freestyle and combined. Novice ladies Anne Ramos, first in original program, second in long program. Dance Kim Desrochers, second in rhythm and blues.

Free tennis clinic offered

The Alaska Club is offering a free tennis clinic for beginner adults Wednesday from 5:45 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Class size is limited. Students must bring a tennis racquet and white-soled tennis shoes.

To sign up or for more information call the Alaska Club's tennis office at 337-2383.

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