

## FWSA Athletic Scholarships for Six Northwest Ski Racers

This year, eighteen young racers from Washington, Oregon, California, Nevada and Utah will benefit from Far West Ski Association grants. The total value of the scholarships was \$13,750, a new record for the scholarship program. Six athletes from the Pacific Northwest were awarded FWSA athletic Scholarships. Three of these scholarships were sponsored by Portland, Oregon, ski clubs.

Linnea Baysinger, age 16, the daughter of Hartley and Susan Baysinger, attends Mount Si High School and trains with the Team Alpental Snoqualmie Ski Team. Linnea finished the 2010-2011 season standing at 9<sup>th</sup> in Downhill and 13<sup>th</sup> in Giant Slalom in her age group. Linnea maintains a 3.95 GPA. Both of Linnea's letters of recommendation commend her for her dedication and discipline. According to her coach, she brings desire and passion to skiing.

Ali Gunesch (\$500), age 17, the daughter of Bill and Mary Gunesch of Government Camp, OR. Ali attends Sandy High School and the Mt. Hood Academy, and is a member of the National Honor Society, with a 4.0 GPA. Her coach, Robert Taggart, notes that she is hard working and very receptive to instructions and new ideas. Ali finished the 2010-2011 season ranked 2<sup>nd</sup> in Downhill and 4<sup>th</sup> in Super G in her age group. She is a solid all-around skier with top ten finishes in every discipline including a 2<sup>nd</sup> and a 4<sup>th</sup> (1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> for J2s) at the Western Region's Downhill at Big Sky, Montana, and a 1<sup>st</sup> in Super G at Mt. Bachelor's Sun Cup. Ali is sponsored by the Bergfeunde Ski Club of Portland, OR.

Haley Hanseler (\$500), age 17, from Longview, WA, was formerly a member of the Mt. Hood Ski Team, but has recently joined the Mission Ridge Ski Team. Despite an early season injury, Haley finished the 2011 season 4<sup>th</sup> in Downhill and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Super G. She was one of four junior women from the 1994 year group to compete in the U.S. Nationals where she finished in the top 50% for Super G. A senior in high school, Haley carries a 3.7 GPA.

Jordan (\$1000), age 17, the daughter of Todd Schweitzer of Portland, OR, is currently enrolled at the Oregon Connections Academy, an online school where she maintains a 3.8 GPA. She is a member of the Mt. Bachelor Ski Team. She finished the 2011 season ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Downhill, eighth in Super G, eighteenth in Giant Slalom and twelfth in Slalom for her age group. Jordan took 2<sup>nd</sup> place in Super G at the J2 National Championships in March 2011. She was last year's J2 National Downhill Champion; unfortunately, this year's Downhill championship was cancelled due to weather. Jordan reached the podium 14 times, including 3 first place finishes, during the 2010-2011 season. Nils Eriksson, Mt Bachelor head coach, wrote: "she is one of the most talented female skiers I have seen in the more than 20 years I have been involved in ski coaching." Jordan is also this year's winner of the Skiyente Ski Club's Erin Nicole Award.

Stephan Splitstoser (\$1,000), age 17, is a member of the Mt. Hood Ski Team, and attends West Linn High School in West Linn, OR. Stephan is a 4.0 student and stands nationally 8th in Downhill and 6th in Super G for his year group. Is sponsored by the Mountain High Snowsport Club of Portland ,OR.

**Cai Yamamoto (\$500), age 17, the son of Calvin and Claudia Yamamoto, is a senior at Quincy High School and trains with the Mission Ridge Ski Team. As a sophomore, Cai was a starting running back for the Quincy High football team. The same hard work and dedication that won him a starting position in football is reflected in his ski racing. He finished the 2011 season ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in Giant Slalom and Super G and 8<sup>th</sup> in Downhill in his age group. His coach, Ryan Shorter, praises Cai for the intensity and focus he brings to everything he does.**

**The FWSA scholarship program is sponsored by Whitefish Mountain Resort, Grouse Mountain Lodge at Whitefish, Shure Sports, the maker of Karbon brand ski and snowboard apparel, and the Far West Racing Association.**