



**PRESS RELEASE:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MARCH 7th 2005

STEIN AND MCEWAN DELIVER CRUSHING BLOWS AT TRIALS!

Carolina West Sports Medicine 2005 USA Wildwater Team Trials

Wesser, NC. Unseasonably warm temperatures, record turnout, a spectator friendly course and an exciting competition set the tone for the largest USA Wildwater Team Trials in well over a decade.

The two-day event on the Nantahala River in Wesser, NC was used to pick the best of the best to represent the USA at the Wildwater World Cups and Pre-World Championships in England, Ireland and Wales, and also the Junior World Championships in Italy later in the year. It attracted 55 racers from the USA, Canada, Chile and New Zealand.

DAY 1: The first day of racing consists of two timed runs down a 2000ft sprint course including the most difficult rapid on the river, Nantahala Falls. This spectator friendly event did not disappoint with many flips, swims and other excitement. Of particular note was the first run of Pablo McCandless paddling for Chile. After an aggressive start, he snapped his paddle but remained composed enough to use the broken ends to help him negotiate Nantahala Falls before having to dump them to stay up right. He then hand paddled his tipsy racing boat all the way to the finish to record a much needed race time. In the women's K1-W race, 16-year old junior Emily Stein of Lookout Mountain, TN hurtled downstream to beat all the senior and junior women and a good portion of the men's field too. This talented junior racer has a bright future ahead of her. Elsewhere, sprint specialist Geoff Calhoun of Bethesda MD took an expected lead over the rest of the K1 field relegating multiple time National Champion Andrew McEwan to second.

DAY 2: The classic or long course used on the second day would take most racers over 30 lung busting minutes as they negotiated the 5.4 mile course finishing at the Nantahala Outdoor Center. Wildwater racers must finish well in both the sprint and classic races to be selected to the USA Team. The switch from a 2-minute race to a 30-minute race can be a difficult one for the unprepared. The most impressive result of the day came from Andrew McEwan of Auburn CA. This long distance specialist blew the men's K1 field wide open to deliver a crushing win by a massive 90 seconds over the sprint winner Geoff Calhoun. Emily Stein once again swept the women's junior and senior fields by a solid margin proving her competence in both short and long course racing.

With both races completed the results were tabulated and the 2005 USA Wildwater Team was announced. Accepting positions on the 2005 USA Wildwater Team are ...

Junior Team

K1W Emily Stein – Lookout Mountain, TN
K1W Erin Wilder – Rockford, AL
K1 Eric Orenstein – Bethesda, MD
K1 Chandler Jones – Franklin, NC
C1 Joel Abrahams – Auburn, AL

Senior Team

K1 Andrew McEwan – Auburn, CA
K1 Geoff Calhoun – Bethesda, MD
K1 Chris Hipgrave – Bryson City, NC
K1 Rob Murphy – Decater, GA
K1 Bern Collins – Columbus, NC
C1 Tom Weir – Snohomish, WA
C1 John Pinyerd – Marietta GA
C1 Mike Beck

The complete results can be found at http://www.usawildwater.com/races/2005_WWTTResults.pdf.

Races of this scale cannot happen without a band of sponsors, supports, volunteers and organizers. The Nantahala Racing Club, the host of the Carolina West Sports Medicine 2005 USA Wildwater Team Trials would like to profusely thank the following for their support of this event.

Carolina West Sports Medicine
Nantahala Outdoor Center
Nantahala Racing Club staff and volunteers
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Watershed Luxury Cabins

Links below will connect you with some great pre and post race articles from the Asheville Citizen Times, Asheville NC.

<http://www.citizen-times.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20050304/SPORTS03/50303007/1019>

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