

WHAT GOES UP, MUST COME DOWN... Somehow

I was looking forward to racing Mt. Snow. After all, Mt. Snow is like my home territory and I was ready to rip it up. The week in between Snowshoe and Mt. Snow was a bit stressful with life getting in the way. I had to give a physiology final, go to court to fight a speeding ticket (for better or worse, I drive like I mountain bike....fast), and get my awesome new K2 bike built up. I have to give a BIG shout out to the guys at Landry's Bicycles of Framingham Massachusetts. They stayed after hours to build the bike. THANKS GUYS! Another huge shout out to the boys at Rockshox who spent time getting my fork ready. It worked great. Additionally, Shimano was right there waiting to work out any last minute adjustments.

I was a bit tired by the time I got to the Mountain, but ready to go. The race went off and we piled into the singletrack... literally. Women and bikes everywhere. After the initial bit of tangling, off we went to climb the mountain. I wasn't climbing quite as fast as I wanted but boy was I trying. Coming down the mountain was pretty interesting. The course had gotten messy from all the rain and the descents were a bit crazy. Spectators were lining the downhills and being from the area, I felt I had to get myself and my bike down in a respectable manner. Sometimes I succeeded, sometimes I didn't, but fun was had by all.

My parents made the trip up to the race as did my good friends and supporters Andy and Jason. I always warn my parents to dress appropriately, but something is usually lost in the translation. My mother showed up in sandals and my father in pseudo sneakers and white khakis. Needless to say, they were troopers and made it up to the muddy uphill/downhill section to cheer me on. I saw David on the course taking pictures and tried to give it a little extra when I went by for the photo. After 3 laps I made it through in 23rd place. Not as good as I had hoped, but as fast as I could go.

After spending a good amount of time cleaning myself and my bike, it was time to report for the team dinner. It was great fun dining with David, Lisa, and Dara as well as a few other friends and significant others. At one point I was shot in the eyebrow with a rubber band- I think it came from David, and then Dara (who should stick to mountain biking, not rubber band flinging) almost hit a poor old lady behind me. Lisa was pretty well behaved. I am still new to the team, so I was on my best behavior. That probably won't last too much longer.

After fueling up and getting some rest, it was time for the short track. It is a fun twisty course that I was excited to race. The race started well. I was in the front group but let a few women squeeze in front of me and I got gapped a bit off the front. I was in the wind by myself for a few laps and then worked with a few girls for a while. I finished off the day in 16th place and managed not to get lapped. It was a tough effort, but great to have so many people cheering me on along the course.

Off to the World Cup at Mt. Sainte Anne next weekend. I am excited as this will be

my first World Cup and I am ready to bust out a great result.
Thanks for ready and Happy trails
SARA