

Casey Wright 2016/17 Overseas Report

As the days begin to get longer and the sun a little warmer, I find myself once again thanking BNSC for their continued support over another northern winter.

After experiencing my first summer here in Alaska, I was very excited for another season racing with the **University of Alaska Anchorage**. Unlike last season, Alaska finally lived up to all expectations and delivered one of the best winters I have ever experienced.



NCAA Classic 5km

Similar to last season I raced on the **Rocky Mt Intercollegiate Ski Association (RMISA)** circuit. Luckily for me, we had 2 sprints on the circuit this year. I was super stoked to start the season with a 4th place finish in the first classic sprint and another 4th at our home skate sprint. The regular season was topped off with another top 5 finish in a 5km classic.

Between racing in the Seawolf green and gold, I chucked on the Aussie gold and green and raced

at the **U23 World Championships in Utah, USA**. I was beyond thrilled to be able to tick the box next to a goal I set close to 4 years ago when I qualified for the classic sprint quarter-final. In addition to the U23 champs, I raced for Australia at the **Asian Winter Games in Sapporo, Japan**. My sprinting success continued when I skied fastest qualifying time and came through with a 3rd place overall finish.

I was again selected to represent UAA at the NCAA Championships, which were held in New Hampshire on the East Coast of the USA. I got to cross off yet another goal with a top 15 finish in the 5km classic race. This was the end of my official season, however, we still had one last opportunity to smash it out at the US Spring



World U23 Championships Classic Sprint

National Champs in Fairbanks, Alaska. Despite battling an annual post-season cold, I managed to put together a great skate sprint, qualifying 8th amongst a strong US field. I then had the opportunity to ski my quarterfinal with world cup skiers Ida Sargent and Sophie Caldwell, narrowly missing a lucky loose spot by less than a second.

Looking back on this season I could not be happier with my results. I am really excited for a couple of month of summer training here in Alaska, before making my way down under for August 2017. I can't wait to be skiing again at Falls Creek and giving it a hit out at the National Champs and Kangaroo Hoppet.

Thank-you for supporting me for another northern winter and I am looking forward to catching up with everyone in the clubhouse this winter!

Cheers,

Casey
April 2017