

2018/19 Overseas Report

Casey Wright



It's that time of year again. The snow has finally melted and the trees have finally turned green. Unfortunately, the sun is still yet to come back to Alaska, but fingers crossed I will see it before too long.

This season my skiing was once again focused in North America. This was my final year skiing for the University of Alaska Anchorage, and my final year before I become a real adult (or whatever you call someone once they have finally finished university). After a slow start to the winter, I finally started to find my racing gears just in time to qualify for my 3rd National Collegiate Championships (NCAA Champs), which were held Stowe, Vermont. This event had been the main focus of my year and would provide me with the final opportunity to tick some goal boxes that I had set 4 years ago when I moved to Alaska.

Due to my poor early season results, I had quite a bad seeding during the event. The 5km skate I started 5th out of 45 participants (the small field size is a result of only qualified college athletes being able to compete in this event. For example, only 3 females and 3 males from my team were selected and able to complete). It was not until the 20th skier crossed that line that my time was finally bested. At the end of the day, I managed to hold onto 10th place, earning myself an All-American Honours which awarded to the top 10 finishers. Not only was this my best college result over the last 4 years, but it was also one of the best results of my skiing career. As an added bonus, I also recorded the fastest time on the course for the women at the speed trap.

This result combined with some other from the season qualified Seawolf gold and the Australian again at the World Cup Finals. time racing on the event provided opportunity to get have in store for Unfortunately, I maintain the form few weeks prior. been a result of fatigue or possibly



combined with others from the me to take off the green and put on green and gold Quebec, Canada, This was my first world cup, and the me with a great a feel for what I the coming years. was not able to that I had found a This may have the end of season the fact it was my

3rd time flying across the Continental US for the season, the 2nd in as many weeks. Regardless, it was a very worthwhile trip and racing experience, especially racing through the old town of Quebec.

As a newly fledged college graduate, some of you may be wondering, what's in store for Casey now? Well, I will be moving back to Australia in June and then straight up

to Falls Creek from July onwards. I am planning to continue skiing for the next couple of years and be a primarily Australia based athlete. While I'm sad to be leaving Alaska, I'm excited to see what's in store for the next chapter of my skiing career and life.

Once again, I want to say a huge thank-you to the whole *Birkebeiner Nordic Ski Club* for giving me the opportunity to follow my skiing dreams. I cannot express how much your continued support means to me and I am looking forward to seeing you all out on the trails and around the clubhouse this season. Please, feel free to come and say hello or join me for a ski.