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SSCV HOSTS FIRST RACES OF 2014-2015 USSA SMARTWOOL SERIES THIS PAST WEEKEND Great Results for SSCV athletes!

Vail, CO, December 14, 2014 – To kick off the 2014– 2015 Alpine racing season in Vail, Ski & Snowboard Club Vail hosted the first two races of the Smartwool Ski Cup USSA Open Series this past Saturday and Sunday. This sixteen race alpine series includes Slalom, Giant Slalom, Super G and Downhill events, and culminates with the Smartwool Championships in late March. The series is open to U16 alpine racers (2000 birth year and older), with select races open to U14 alpine racers (2001 and 2002 birth year).

This past weekend's men's and ladies' giant slalom events were held at Vail's Golden Peak race arena. Over 160 racers, including those representing clubs from Steamboat, Summit, Aspen, Winter Park, Loveland and Vail as well as visitors from the Northern, Eastern and Central division and collegiate racers, all seeking to improve their points in the first USSA open series points race of the season in Vail, joined in on a great weekend of competition. SmartWool, a Steamboat-based apparel manufacturer, has been sponsoring this USSA Open Race Series since 2003.

Top five finishers for Saturday's giant slalom races were:

Male	Female
1. Colby Lange-SSCV	1. Devin Delaney-DU
2. Max Marno-DU	2. Jennie Symons-NTG
3. Cooper Cornelius-AVSC	3. Dylan Fiore-SSCV
4. Louis Nguyen-BKH	4. Kaitlyn Vesterstein-NTG
5. Matthew Macaluso-SSCV	5. Michaela Strizencova-SSCV

Top five finishers for Sunday's giant slalom races were:

Male	Female
1. Colby Lange-SSCV	1. Alix Wilkinson-NTG
2. Ben Kooiman-SSCV	2. Jennie Symons-NTG
3. Matthew Macaluso-SSCV	3. Dylan Fiore-SSCV
4. Riley Kilgore-SSCV	4. Michaela Strizencova and Kaitlyn Vesterstein-NTG
5. Sam Frackowiak-SSWSC	

Complete race results can be found at www.live-timing.com.

This weekend's races were the first to be hosted by Ski & Snowboard Club Vail this season. PJ Jenick, Chief of Race both days, shared "It was a particularly exciting weekend for these young athletes, racing on the same course that the 2015 Alpine FIS World Championship Men's GS Qualifiers will be take place on. With a change in USSA rules, this was the first time U16 athletes have run a course of this length."

For many of these young racers it was their first USSA points race, starting with the maximum number of points. "The field skied well, including those starting at 990", stated Jenick. "We are so fortunate to be able to rely on the Vail grooming department which, once again, did a great job in providing us with a terrific surface condition, and the Vail Resorts Race Crew which maintained the course to the best of conditions. I am also grateful for the staff at SSCV and the many parent volunteers who came out to make sure that these race days went smoothly for all."

Sunday proved to be a more challenging day than Saturday with the arrival of wet, heavy snow and intermittent visibility issues, but thanks to the Vail Race Department, the jury along with SSCV and visiting coaches, athletes and volunteers, the race arena was kept up throughout the day. SSCV athletes took many of the top 10 finishes, a very exciting way to start the U16 race season!

Ski & Snowboard Club Vail is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Founded in 1962 to provide training and competition programs for aspiring young ski racers, SSCV is one of the Vail Valley's oldest non-profits. Today, the organization remains true to its roots by instilling values of character, courage and commitment in more than 600 youngsters who participate in its on-snow winter sports programs each year. Programs are available in Alpine, Freeskiing, Freestyle, Nordic, Ski Cross and Snowboarding.

For more information about SSCV, visit www.skiclubvail.org, call 970-790-5161 or email sschmidt@skiclubvail.org.