

# Wet & Wild

by Max Thilén

Where there's a will, there's a way. And in the Four Corners, just because there's an inch or 6 of snow on the ground doesn't mean bikers have to hang up their wheels for skis. In fact, there's even a sport to fill those snowy, slippery, slidey and otherwise miserable shoulder season months. It's known as cyclocross, or just "CX" for those in the muddy and mucky loop. And as long as you don't mind a little grit in your bottom bracket, there's a complete series of races devoted to the hardest of the hardcore: Durango Performance Center's Four Corners Cyclocross series.

On Sat., Dec. 12, Fort Lewis College's Ray Dennison Field hosted the seventh race of the season, with a fresh layer of snow just to make things extra interesting. When the mud – and snot – had flown and all digits were sufficiently frozen, FLC rider Sofia Gomez Villafane and Keegan Swenson (Cannondale/Enve) emerged victorious, if not humbled.

"The last few weeks have been all about grass and sand and just really fast," said Villafane of the previous races' mild, almost balmy conditions. "Here we had to sprint all of the flats because in the turns there was only one speed. It became a race of who wouldn't fall."

Swenson, on the other hand, credits his success over second place-finisher Travis Brown (Trek) to an early lead. "It's nice to be able to ride your own race, you can go fast when you want to go fast and take your time when you should and not worry about people in front of you or behind you," he said.

Cody Cupp was the top-placed FLC rider in the Men's A division and Brianne Marshall (Tough Girl) took second place honors for the women.

Villafane and Swenson both extended their leads in the overall standings heading into the final race of the season, the Pagosa Santa Cross on Sat., Dec. 19.



Riders pass beneath the snow-shrouded watch of Perin's Peak.



A conga line forms on the hill climb.



Ian McPherson goes for the dreaded slide for life.



First-place womens finisher Sofia Gomez Villafane looks no worse for the wear.



Top FLC rider Cody Cupp is outstanding in the field.