

4/27/2014

Dear

It was a pleasure for me to get to know you throughout the last ski season, and it is an honor to write this letter to speak to your character as a ski racer. For the purposes of this letter in relation to ski racing, I chose four character traits that you showed consistently throughout the season.

The first character trait that you showed over and over during the ski season was courage. Not every person can strap on skis and huck their body down a hill as fast as they can go. That in itself shows courage. However, there was one incident that happened that let me see your courage. When we were in Jackson Hole in January of 2014, you took quite the fall. You had a lot of speed and crashed hard. You did a few somersaults and even broke the season pass off the back of your helmet. It was a little scary to watch, and I'm sure it was scary to experience as well. However, you didn't let the fear of falling hold you back. You had the courage to get your skis back on, and continue to give it your all every day at practice. You had the courage to show others to not be afraid. I was proud to see that in you.

The next character traits that you showed consistently were responsibility and discipline. Ski racing is a bit of a different sport. We can only practice when there is snow. Therefore, we make the most of the time on snow that we have. This leads to up to six hours of practice at least two days a week, and another two hours of practice on a weekday night. When you were at practice and races you always met up with coaches on time, listened to directions, arrived in the race arena on time, and multiple other ways of showing responsibility. You showed discipline to the sport by giving 110% every time you were on skis, whether we were practicing in gates, free skiing, or skiing with your family. You were a great example to the other racers.

The last and most important character trait you showed this year was respect. From using your manners with coaches to treating your fellow teammates with respect, it was a constant part of your everyday. It is obvious that respect isn't just something that you think about, but it is a natural part of your everyday life. One example of respecting your peers was taking turns waiting in lines to practice and cheering on your competitors each and every race. You were always there to offer help to anyone who needed it, and I always heard you thanking someone throughout the day. It is refreshing to see that as a daily norm.

I am so excited to see how you keep growing up, both as a ski racer and a person.

Sincerely,

Becky Anderson

Austin's Ski Coach at Bogus Basin Ski Education Foundation