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ATHLETES OF THE MONTH

LONE PEAK

BIG HORNS



REECE BELL

Reece Bell, 10, is a fifth-grader at Ophir. She is class president and enjoys participating in Mr. Neal's 5th grade economy. Reece started skiing when she was three-years-old and racing at the age of eight. She is now a second year J5 in BSSEF's Buddy Werner program.

This season she has won seven out of eight races –with one DNF- in the J5 division. She has also placed four times in the top five overall, competing against

racers up to the age of 13. Her favorite discipline is Super G, a speed event. Reece skis with Atomic skis and poles. Her boots, a racer's most essential element, have been expertly fitted by Grizzly Outfitters with the Amfit foot bed system.

Reece was born in London and has dual citizenship. Her goal is to follow in her father Martin's ski boots and compete for Great Britain in the Olympics. Martin is a four-time top ten Olympic downhiller. Reece's mother, Laura, would prefer Reece to have a slightly safer occupation such as a veterinarian as she is an avid animal lover.

Reece loves skiing with her friends and the social aspect. She has friends on the Bridger and Red Lodge ski teams. She also plays soccer in the Bozeman Blitz league in the spring and fall.

Her favorite "lifetime experience" was the week she spent at Expedition Yellowstone with Mr. Harder and the fourth grade class from Ophir. Her favorite subjects are science and math.

LUKE KIRCHMAYR

Luke Kirchmayr, 7, is a second grader at Ophir. He loves to play soccer, but winter is his favorite time of the year. He plays hockey as a first year mite with the Bozeman Icedogs. His favorite winter sport is skiing. Come August, Luke gets ready for winter by tuning his skis.

Luke started skiing when he was only 16 months old and joined BSSEF when he was five. He is a first-year J6. He loves the camaraderie of being on a team, having fun and making friends. He still talks about how much fun he had with his first coaches. He remembers skiing Liberty Bowl for the first time and getting a M&M for every pole plant he made.

The second year at BSSEF, his coaches taught Luke how to ski the steepes. He remembers skiing Marx and taking lots of fun runs through the trees. This is Luke's third year in BSSEF and he is now in the Buddy Werner program. His coaches are teaching Luke how to navigate the gates. After the first race the comment from Luke was, "Too many gates, too confusing!" Now, Luke loves races even though he still gets nervous before them. His coaches make sure Luke gets his share of free runs from the summit or in the trees. The coaches at BSSEF are a special group of people who work incredibly hard to make each athlete happy while at the same time teaching them something for life. Luke loves Ophir School and science is always on Luke's mind – he must have brought home every science book available at the library! When asked how school is, the answer is always "it is amazing!"

Luke's mom is from Thailand and his dad is from Austria. This spring and summer, Luke will go to school in Austria. Luke is looking forward to getting to know his Austrian family and learning how to yodel.

