



Saint Michael's College Alpine Skiing 2022 NCAA Championship Notes



Head Coach Gus MacLeod '02

Under the guidance of 12th-year head coach **Gus MacLeod '02**, the Saint Michael's College Alpine skiing program has become a regional power in the Eastern Intercollegiate Ski Association (EISA), joining the likes of Dartmouth College, Middlebury College and the University of Vermont. MacLeod was named EISA Coach of the Year for the second time in six seasons this winter - Saint Michael's actually swept the coaching honors, with Nordic head coach **Molly Peters** also landing EISA Coach of the Year.

MacLeod's men's and women's teams placed among the top four in 10 of 16 carnival events this winter, including seven of eight men's races. His skiers combined for 17 individual top-10 finishes, with four different Purple Knights combining to reach the podium five times. Fourteen of the 22 NCAA Championship Alpine and Nordic skiing qualifiers in College history have come in MacLeod's tenure, with those 14 accounting for 23 qualifications.

One of MacLeod's charges, first-year **Sarah Escobar**, qualified for the 2022 Winter Olympic Games, becoming the first woman to represent Ecuador at a Winter Olympics. Escobar, a dual citizen of the United States and Ecuador, was the lone athlete representing the country at last month's Games, and served as flag bearer during the opening ceremony. She competed in the giant slalom, completing her opening run in 60th place, but was among 49 of the 82 starters who did not complete two runs. Escobar was accompanied at the Games by Saint Michael's assistant coach **Nick Staggers**, who has coached alongside MacLeod for 10 years.

Helene Kristoffersen ♦ First-Year Rælingen, Norway/Dønski VGS



Pronunciation: heh – LEN – uh
Hometown: RAW – ling – en

Fifth female SMC skier to qualify for NCAAAs as first-year; fourth Alpine skier ... three top-10 finishes ... one podium: Feb. 20 NCAA qualifier GS (2nd) ... joins classmate Margrethe Frøland '25 in hailing from Rælingen, Norway ... among five graduates of Dønski VGS on team ... biochemistry major ...

recorded three third-place finishes on FIS circuit in 2021.

Eirik Kveno ♦ First-Year Asker, Norway/Dønski VGS



Pronunciations: EYE – rick KVAY – no

All-EISA East 2nd team ... fifth male SMC skier to qualify for NCAAAs as first-year, all Alpine ... six top-10 finishes ... one podium: Jan. 22 SMC Carnival SL (3rd) ... among five graduates of Dønski VGS on team ... business major ... top 10 in 16 FIS races in 2021, reaching podium once ... top nine in all five events at 2021 Norwegian National Junior Championship ... 13th in GS at Swedish champs.

Simen Strand ♦ Sophomore Høvik, Norway/Dønski VGS

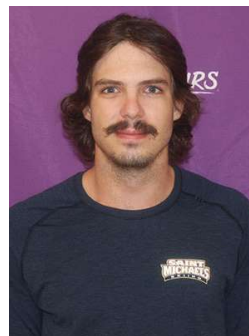


Pronunciation: SIMON
Hometown: HEV – vick

EISA All-East 1st team ... five top-10 finishes, placing 11th in other three races ... two podiums: Jan. 14 Colby GS (3rd) and Feb. 25 EISA SL (2nd) ... among five graduates of Dønski VGS on team ... business major ... Finnish national champ in Super G (2016) and GS (2020) ... J-2 SL champ at 2020

Norwegian National Championship.

Ben Throm ♦ Senior Aspen, Colo./Aspen HS



Seventh SMC skier to qualify for multiple NCAAAs, all Alpine ... one top-10 finish, taking second in Jan. 21 SMC GS ... missed final five races of 2020 season due to injury ... at 2019 NCAAAs, 19th in slalom and 24th in GS ... political science major ... five career top-10 finishes ... second in slalom at 2014 U.S. Alpine U18 National Championship ... competed for Aspen Valley Ski and Snowboard Club for numerous years, skiing internationally, including on Nor-Am Cup circuit.

2022 Results

	<u>SMC</u>	<u>ALP-M</u> GS/SL	<u>ALP-W</u> GS/SL	<u>Kristoffersen</u> GS/SL	<u>Kveno</u> GS/SL	<u>Strand</u> GS/SL	<u>Throm</u> GS/SL
Colby Carnival <i>Jan. 14 & 16</i>	8	3/4	8/T6	15/26	6/13	3/11	DNF2/30
SMC Carnival <i>Jan. 21-22</i>	6	1/6	5/4	14/19	T5/3	-/-	2/26
NCAA Qualifier <i>Feb. 11</i>	-	-/-	-/-	-/17	-/20	-/7	-/missed cut
Dartmouth Carnival <i>Feb. 12</i>	6	-/3	-/4	-/9	-/8	-/5	-/19
Middlebury Carnival <i>Feb. 19</i>	6	4/-	6/-	22/-	16/-	11/-	32/-
NCAA Qualifier <i>Feb. 20</i>	-	-/-	-/-	2/-	21/-	10/-	30/-
EISA Championship <i>Feb. 25-26</i>	6	4/4	3/6	10/14	T5/10	11/2	DNF2/missed cut

Saint Michael's College Skiing NCAA Championship History

Top Alpine Performances

Giant Slalom, Men

12th, Guillaume Grand, 2016
13th, Guillaume Grand, 2019
16th, Guillaume Grand, 2017
19th, Fredrik Sandell, 2015
24th, Ben Throm, 2019

Slalom, Men

4th, Guillaume Grand, 2019
9th, Guillaume Grand, 2016
10th, Guillaume Grand, 2017
13th, Keith Farnand, 1998
13th, Guillaume Grand, 2018

Giant Slalom, Women

15th, Megan McCarthy, 2002
21st, Kara Woods, 1988
22nd, Anna Willassen, 2018
25th, Meggane Grand, 2018
25th, Anna Willassen, 2019

Slalom, Women

15th, Meggane Grand, 2018
27th, Anna Willassen, 2017
28th, Anna Willassen, 2018
29th, Anna Willassen, 2019

Appearances, Men

Keith Farnand, 4 (97-98-99-00)
Guillaume Grand, 4 (16-17-18-19)
Fredrik Sandell, 3 (12-13-15)
Brad Harden, 2 (09-10)
Ben Throm, 2 (19-22)

Appearances, Women

Anna Willassen, 3 (17-18-19)
Meggane Grand, 2 (16-18)

All-America

Guillaume Grand, 2016 (2nd Team)
Guillaume Grand, 2017 (2nd Team)
Guillaume Grand, 2019 (1st Team)

Year	Finish (Pts)
1983 N	18th/18 (3)
1988 A	13th/15 (14)
1996 N	18th/23 (42)
1997 A	20th/21 (32)
1998 AN	18th/22 (38)
1999 AN	17th/23 (45)
2000 A	19th/20 (28)
2002 A	21st/23 (22)
2009 A	20th/22 (31)
2010 A	21st/22 (19)
2012 A	19th/21 (33)
2013 A	20th/21 (24)
2014 A	19th/23 (16)
2015 A	18th/23 (12)
2016 A	15th/21 (50)
2017 A	15th/21 (56)
2018 A	12th/23 (73)
2019 A	13th/24 (72)

bold - held in Utah

Top 5 Performances

Placement	Points
12th, 2018	73, 2018
13th, 2019	72, 2019
13th, 1988	56, 2017
15th, 2017	50, 2016
15th, 2016	45, 1999

