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July 18, 2004

Drake speeds past field in MTB-100

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Herald Staff Report

PURGATORY - There was plenty different about Saturday's 2nd Annual 100-Mile Mountain Bike Race from its original.

For one, there was a new set of champions, both male and female. And second, it was a beautiful day.

Durangoan David Drake was the top male while Michelle Keane, of Vail, was queen of the female. Unlike last year, both riders raced beneath clear skies.

The inaugural 100 saw rain the entire night of the event and dark, cloudy skies on the day of the race.

"It's nice to have one this year without torrential rain like last year," race director Will Newcomer said. "No one got hurt (last year), but everyone was having problems with their chains and gears clogging up, so a lot of people couldn't finish last year. It's a hard-enough course as it is without adding the mud to it."

The Durango MTB-100 features over 18,500 feet of elevation gain throughout Durango Mountain Resort - the most in its class among other 100's.

"Once again," Newcomer said, "the overwhelming sentiment was that this is the hardest 100 race around."

Only 17 of the registered 60 riders for the MTB-100 finished the race, and only two of the four females crossed the finish line.

Keane finished the race in 12 hours and 15 minutes. Ann James took second with a time of 12:43.

Kip Biese and Peter Thorsness were the money-winners on the men's side behind Drake. Drake raced the course in nine hours and 42 minutes.

"He put it to them, because the second-place guy was 10 hours and 11 minutes, so he was way ahead," Newcomer said. "He put almost 40 minutes on the second-place guy just on the third lap alone, so he was moving."

Drake and Keane won Dean Colonel Titanium Frames for their first-place finishes. Second place earned \$500 and third place took \$250.

"Everyone had a great time," Newcomer said. "Even if they didn't finish the last lap, they were hanging out and cheering people on. It was a good atmosphere."



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