

Sports

Tough break Bad luck won't slow Coplea down

Fountain Hills cyclist Tyler Coplea, 17, was heading down a mountain course in Offenburg, Germany, preparing for the upcoming UCI World Cup race.

Heading into a section of the course known as "The Snake Pit," a tangle of intertwining tree roots, Coplea's bike caught and pitched its rider.

Coplea suffered a fractured collar bone, effectively removing him from competition at the World Cup race, or the one following in Granichen, Switzerland.

Coplea was one of six U.S. cyclists between the ages of 17-18 selected to take part in the Junior European Mountain Bike Camp earlier this month and, even though he was unable to actually compete, he said he wouldn't have given up the experience for the world.

Coplea said he found out he had been selected for the European Camp back in May.

"I was pretty excited when I found out," he said.

"I've wanted to do this since I was 10, so it's been a long time coming and just hoping I would qualify. I was relieved when I got the letter."

Coplea was one of three members of the AZ Devo squad to be selected for this prestigious opportunity, making up half of the total members coming from the U.S.

The goal of the camp is to provide high-level European race experience for the best young mountain bike racers the country has to offer.

Coplea, a senior at Fountain Hills High School, joined teammates Ryan Geiger and Cypress Gorro for a two-week trip across the pond to represent their

town, state and country while receiving special training from some of the best riders and coaches in the world.

After training for two weeks in Kirchzarten, Germany, the trio was nearly ready to compete as part of the U.S. National Team when Coplea's incident occurred.

To prepare for the camp, Coplea started putting in extra training time here in the States. He said he allowed for less recovery time in his training, which made for some very stressful times.

Once he got to Germany, he said that mornings were reserved for training while the afternoons were meant for keeping healthy and getting in lots of down time to avoid injury.

Little did he know, however, no amount of preparation could avoid the unfortunate events just a

dozen days away from his arrival in Germany.

Coplea didn't focus on his injury, though. He was too busy talking about how much fun he had, the people he learned from and the experience he was fortunate enough to take part in.

"I saw a lot while I was there," Coplea said.

"The scenery was like nothing I could imagine. While we were riding, people from the nearby village would cheer us on. That was amazing. It was an amazing culture, really, and really cool to see."

Coplea said he got to know and learn from some of the best riders in the world, including four-time World Cycling Championship medalist Connie Carpenter and Olympic cyclist Adam Craig.

"It was amazing having these pros staying in the same house as us," Coplea said.

"It was cool getting to see them when they aren't racing and listen to their stories."

Despite not being able to compete, Coplea said seeing the Elite race and the World Cup in person for the first time were probably his favorite part of the trip.

"I got in all the training, I just didn't get to compete, which is unfortunate," he said.

"But I did get to see the race in a way most don't, which I think has helped



At 17, Tyler Coplea is already making a name for himself in the world of cycling.

Sports Briefs

Greager an official Slugger

Fountain Hills High School 2011 graduate and baseball standout Bryce Greager has officially been selected to the Louisville Slugger High School All-American Baseball First Team.

Congratulations to this former Falcon.

Bogey Boys hit the links

Monday, June 20, the Bogey Boys played their

regular game at Desert Canyon.

At -25, the winning team was John Allexan, Cliff Hansen, Charles Long and Jim Perron. Second, at -23, was Maury Corp, Dan Kinninger, Phil Klingsmith and Clyde Satriano. Ron Fett and Clyde Satriano tied for low net at 65 with Jim Perron and Roger Riggert tied at 66.

Wednesday, June 22, the Boys played Grayhawk Golf Club where the winning team, at -7, was Richard Crane, Dan Kinninger and Tom Martin. Second, at -5, went to John Allexan, Jerry Caldwell, Maury Corp and Jack Murray. Low net at 71 was Jerry Caldwell with Jim Sandow at 72.

Monday, June 27, the Boys returned to Desert Canyon with the winning team of John Allexan, Ron Fett and Jim Sandow shooting -30. Bill Addy, Dick Czernicki, Roger Riggert and

Clyde Satriano were second at -27 with Cliff Hansen, Jack Murray, Dale Nelson and Walter O'Neil in third at -19. Low net at 63 was Dick Czernicki and Roger Riggert with Cliff Hansen at 64 and Ron Fett at 65.

Wednesday, June 29, play was at Orange Tree Golf Resort with the winning team of Jim Frank, Bill Luke, Jack Murray and Jim Sandow winning at -12. Second, at -6, belonged to Stee Chapko, Cliff Hansen, Tom Martin and Otto Strehlow. Low net was Jim Sandow at 71 with Jack Murray shooting a 74.

Businessmen mean golf

The Fountain Hills BusinessMen's League had its Thursday, June 30, outing at Sanctuary golf course. The format for the day was match play.

Winning their matches in the A Division were Chris James, Duper Johnson, Billy Lavoie, Mark Garofalo, Craig Neill, Terry Nichols and Jerry Berna. Neill had the low net with 64.

Winners in the B Division were Dave Howard, Bobby Feller, B.A. Holub, Stevey Eiklor, Chuck Stevens and Russ Bonaguidi. Holub had the low net with 62.

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Town offers summer sports

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Flag football
The Boys and Girls Club of Greater Scottsdale, McKee Branch, and the Town of Fountain Hills Community Services Department are partnering for the third year to offer Fountain Hills Flag Football.

Boys and girls grades 1-8 are encouraged to participate. There is a \$100

fee per participant, plus a \$25 Boys and Girls Club membership fee.

This includes eight games, a tournament, awards and uniform.

The deadline to sign up is Thursday, Sept. 7. Player drafts will be held at Four Peaks Park, north field, on Saturday, Sept. 10.

Volunteer coaches are also sought and the cheer program will continue for its second year. Call 344-5406 or 816-5132 for details.

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