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MIDDLEBURY'S KELLY BRUSH INJURED IN GS FALL

Kelly Brush, a sophomore at Middlebury College, was seriously injured on Saturday, Feb. 18, in a fall during the women's giant slalom at the Williams College Winter Carnival. The race was held at Jiminy Peak Mountain Resort in Hancock, Massachusetts.

Brush, 19, caught her uphill ski and went off-course, sliding backward about 100 feet on an icy slope, then suddenly shot off to the side when her outside ski caught an edge. She struck a lift-tower support with her back. She

was attended to by the Jiminy Peak ski patrol and race officials on the scene, where she was stabilized and transported to the base of the hill. From there she was taken via ambulance to the Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, where she underwent surgery for injuries to her vertebrae and spinal cord.

Brush broke her seventh and eighth thoracic vertebrae but did not sever her spinal cord, said Forest Carey, Middlebury's head alpine coach. "She's totally alert, totally there. She's Kelly," Carey said after visiting Brush.

Kelly's sister Lindsay is a junior at Middlebury and also a member of the alpine team. The previous week at the Dartmouth Carnival slalom, Lindsay tore her ACL and is out for the season. Their parents, Charlie and Mary Brush, live in Charlotte, Vermont. Charlie Brush skied for Middlebury and later served as a ski and football coach.

Kelly was in the hearts and minds of her teammates all week, especially during the Middlebury Carnival, held Feb. 24 and 25. "I got in the start and [told myself], 'This is for Kelly,'" said teammate Megan Hughes, who won the GS by more than one second. "Then all the way down I was telling myself you've got to ski faster because I promised her I'd bring her some hardware."

— PEGGY SHINN