



June 25, 2008

Purdue team hits the open sky

THE NEWS

Purdue University's Air Race Classic team was expected to start its race across the country Tuesday.

Purdue's team this year is captain Marie Janus, who recently graduated from Purdue with a degree in aviation flight technology, and co-pilot Juliana Lindner, a junior in professional flight and management.

They left last week from the Purdue Airport for the four-day race.

THE RACE

The race is a competition among three teams of women pilots. They will fly from Bozeman, Mont., to Mansfield, Mass., with seven stops.

The teams will be given points based on how much faster than the average speed they can get their planes to fly during the race legs. The teams look for favorable winds and lighten their planes to go faster.

The team can fly as many legs as it wishes in one day as long as skies are clear and there is daylight. The team can also choose not to fly on a day if the weather does not seem favorable.

Purdue is one of three college teams to race this year.

THE HISTORY

Purdue's team has done well in previous years in the competition.

Last year Janus was co-pilot of the team that came in fourth overall and won the collegiate division, beating out four other teams.

THE DIARY

Janus will send diary updates on the team's progress each day of the race. The current update focuses on the team's time in Bozeman, Mont., leading up to the start of the race.

To read the daily entries, see below.

- Brian Wallheimer/bwallheimer@journalandcourier.com

Purdue team optimistic on first day of Air Race Classic

Daily Diary

Day 1

Hello!

It's time for another Women's Air Race Classic! Let me introduce this year's Purdue team: My name is Marie Janus and I am the captain for this year and my wonderful co-pilot is a junior named Juliana Lindner.

We are flying the same airplane from last year, (tail number) N562PU, also known as "Danica." I am writing to you all from beautiful Bozeman, Mont.

Bozeman is the start for this race and we end in Mansfield, Mass. Juliana and I are looking forward to a pretty exciting race this year!

We made it out to Bozeman pretty easy. We had blue skies, warm temperatures and headwinds on the way out there (that's good!). Bozeman is a great little western town with all the cute small town charm. We were lucky to meet a Purdue alum while we were out here, Kathy Denhart and her husband Ron. They live in a beautiful house wedged in the mountains here in Bozeman.

Their view is GORGEOUS! They are a very nice couple, and Juliana and I got to spend two great dinners with them.

We spent one afternoon at the Museum of the Rockies, where we saw the most amazing fossils. They have more fossils than I have ever seen!

Juliana and I also managed to find time to go white-water rafting on the Gallatin River in between air race briefings. It was so much fun! One of the rapids was a class 4 (they tell me that's pretty high!).

Tomorrow (Wednesday) we take off from Bozeman on an amazing trip across the country. We are both very excited and also very nervous.

I am attaching a map of this year's race so that you can all follow along on our trip.

I will write more tomorrow and you all can hear how our first day went!

Marie Janus, Captain
