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## Purdue pilots look to finish race today; read team's diary here

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### THE NEWS

Purdue University's Air Race Classic team ambitiously finished three legs of the cross-country race Wednesday and was planning to finish the race today - one day early.

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

After flying Wednesday from Aberdeen, S.D., to Mason City, Iowa, the team had to wait out a thunderstorm. From there, it was off to Decatur, Ill., and then Frankfort, Ky.

The team has three legs left with stops in Franklin, Pa., and Sarasota Springs, N.Y., before reaching the finish line in Mansfield, Mass.

### The race

The race is a competition among 33 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.

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

### The history

Purdue's team has done well in previous competitions.

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 is sending diary updates on the team's progress each day of the race. The current update focuses on the team's second day, taking off from Aberdeen, S.D.

Here's a day-by-day look at the team's race so far.

## Thursday June 25

Hello from Saratoga Springs, NY!

So the plan today was to get to Mansfield, MA. but the weather did not cooperate with that at all! We were able to get in two legs today.

We woke up early to take-off from Frankfort this morning. We had a lower leg to start to catch surface winds. However near the end of the leg, we encountered some unforecasted weather and we chose to deviate to an airport along the route and wait for the conditions to lift. When the conditions improved, we took-off and made it into Franklin, PA.

After that we waited for the cloud ceilings to lift and had lunch at the nice italian restaurant at the airport. Once the clouds had lifted enough for us to move on, we took-off for Saratoga Springs, NY. It was an okay leg with beautiful terrain and small, cute, quaint towns.

Once in New York, we decided to stay overnight because the weather was declining. We got a hotel room near downtown. Saratoga Springs is a very cute college town with very attractive downtown storefronts. I wished that I could have come back in the daytime to go shopping! The locals told me it was home to a horse race next month. They said the number of people in the town would swell and the hotel room cost would skyrocket.

We look forward to being in Mansfield tomorrow. With only one leg left, our adventure is almost over and we have had a lot of fun.

Once again, thanks for your support!

Marie

## Wednesday June 25

Hello from Frankfort, Ky!

Today was such a tiring day! We did three legs today starting from Aberdeen (S.D.). It was super hot and very hard work.

We started from Aberdeen with a really good leg to Mason City, Iowa. We took off as soon as we could, at 6:30 a.m., and it was a great way to start the day.

When we got to Iowa, we found that there was a nice, nasty thunderstorm waiting for us in between Mason City and Decatur, Ill. We waited for the storm to dissipate, and it was so frustrating. We wanted to move on to Decatur and take advantage of the winds that were good at that point.

When it looked good to go, we hopped in and headed off to Illinois. It was a lower leg, and I don't think I've ever been hotter in my life. Sweat was literally dripping off of me and down my legs. It was so gross! It also got pretty turbulent towards the end. Basically, the most comfortable ride ever!

When we got to Decatur, the tower was very nice and did a really good job sorting out the mess we got into when we are all coming in in a cluster. We did a very quick turn and then went on to Frankfort. There were lots of beautiful puffy clouds on the way in Midwest fashion.

We were so grateful to be finished. It was a really long day. We took care of Danica and headed over to the Days Inn. Tomorrow will be another early morning, so I'm going to sign off. We're hoping to get all the way to the end tomorrow, so I need to get some sleep!

Thanks for all of your support!

Marie Janus

Captain

## **Tuesday June 24**

Hello from Aberdeen, S.D.!

Juliana and I had a very nerve-wracking and exciting day! We woke up early this morning (Tuesday) to attend a final breakfast and meeting before we headed out to the aircraft. We got there with only 45 minutes to load the plane and get everything ready for take-off.

Kathy and Ron met us to see us off. It was so nice to have someone there wishing you well on that important morning.

The ground crew briefed us that we were to try to do four legs today (an almost impossible feat!), ending us in Decatur, Ill. They wanted us to get in front of some thunderstorms that were to develop tomorrow (Wednesday). So we were prepared for a long day of flying and quick turns.

Engine start was to be at 8 a.m. and then we would all taxi in order to the runway for take-off. 8:30 rolled around and FINALLY the first engine started! We were off by 9 a.m. on our first leg from Bozeman, Mont., to Miles City, Mont. We could have used that hour for our four legs! There was a little bit of mountain dodging and some beautiful views, and overall we had a good first leg.

The fly-by at Miles City was very exciting. There were so many airplanes in the area you had to keep a close eye at everything around you. Coming at the ground at a very high speed can be a little unsettling. But our first fly-by was successful and we got on the ground safely. Through a little misunderstanding with the fuel trucks (there were two with two separate lists for fuel), we got our fuel very quickly. This was good for our first quick turn, but we were still an hour behind, so Decatur was looking less and less likely.

The leg from Miles City to Aberdeen, S.D., was the longest of the race. Juliana and I entertained ourselves with Mad Libs (Love you Katie!) and listening to the other racers on the air-to-air frequency. When we got to Aberdeen, the fly-by was a lot less stressful as we arrived during a lull in the traffic.

When we got on the ground, we were informed by the ground crew that we were to stay the night in Aberdeen. The storms that were to develop were a lot less severe than they thought and the winds tomorrow would be better!

Juliana and I are settled in at the Super 8 Hotel and we are looking forward to another fun and exciting day tomorrow. I'll send out another update tomorrow!

Marie Janus

Captain

## **Monday June 23**

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

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