

NDC Nationals Success: Shields Secures Overall Junior National Championship Title, Somppi 4th in 50k!



NDC- Thunder Bay had a very successful National Championships! On the last day of competition, Andy Shields secured the overall Junior National Title by winning the 30km skate race, his second victory of the championships. Ironically, it was also Andy's birthday and what more could he have asked for....It was his best birthday present to date!! Andy stated after the race, "I went at a good pace with the lead pack for most of the race and then with 5km to go I made my key moves and secured my win. This has been my best birthday yet!" Always ambitious, this race and the aggregate championship was the aim from the beginning for Andy "My goal at the start of the season was to win the junior aggregate award at nationals and I'm very happy to achieve that today. I'm very happy with my performance."

Micheal Somppi also had a very strong performance in the 50km skate race as he skied with the lead pack, which included two Olympians and some of the strongest skiers in Canada for the majority of the race and crossed the line in 4th position. Mike was very happy with his performance, "I'm really happy with my result and it was a great way to finish off the championships by having a very strong performance."

Overall, it was a great championship for NDC-Thunder Bay, with many top tens and a few medals. Andrea Lee skied very strong in each race and came away with the overall Canadian University Title!! NDC-Thunder Bay showed its strength and proved once again that we are one of the best ski centres in Canada!



Andy Shields on top of the podium. Photo Credit: Martin Kaiser

Please see the following link for action shots of the athletes throughout the week. All pictures were taken by Martin Kaiser:

<https://picasaweb.google.com/martinkaiser/NationalsNDC?authkey=Gv1sRgCKy3huOI59DYwwE#>

The Canadian race calendar is now complete and a few of our athletes have been selected to compete in Idaho for the Super Tour Race finals where the best skiers from all over North America will be attending. The other members of the team will be taking part in the 24hour relay at the Lappe Ski Centre this Saturday.