

World Junior and U23 Competition Wraps Up



Michael Somppi, Erin Tribe, and Andy Shields of the National Development Centre - Thunder Bay put in a solid effort on the last day of competition at the World Junior and Under 23 Cross Country Skiing Championships in Oteppea, Estonia. Andy Shields competed in the relay event and anchored Canada into a 9th place finish. Shields had a very strong anchor leg in the skate technique, having the 6th fastest time on his lap.

Erin Tribe and Michael Somppi competed in the 15km and 30km pursuit races respectively. This is where skiers start the race in the traditional classical technique, come to a transition zone and switch into their skate equipment. The athletes then head out and ski the same distance doing skate technique. Tribe placed a respectable 32nd in a time of 47:05 while Somppi placed 40th in a very strong field. Alex Harvey of Canada won the men's race in a time of 1:13:47 ahead of Russia's Evgeniy Below.



Shields also competed in the 20km pursuit race on Sunday placing 31st. He was the top North American and made up 7 positions in the skate leg. He was extremely close to a top 30 finish, which shows a significant improvement over last year's results.

Overall, NDC-Thunder Bay athletes performed extremely well and are looking forward to more great racing at the Eastern Canadian Championships taking place in Ottawa from February 11th-13th.