

Somppi Cracks Top 15 At U23 World Championships!

NDC's Michael Somppi proved today that he can ski with the best in the world. Finishing an impressive 14th in a field of 68 in the 15km skate race, Michael showed he is in top form for these championship races being held in Otepaa, Estonia. NDC Head Coach Eric Bailey said he was very pleased with Mike's performance today. Bailey stated after the race, " Mike raced very hard today and has shown that he can compete at the World-level for his age. On the last lap, he did not lose any time to the Top-5 showing that his fitness is very good and maybe he could start even a bit quicker. He is gaining extremely valuable international experience every day and gaining confidence with each race".



When asked about how his race went and how he thinks the rest of the Championships might play out, Michael was optimistic. "Today was a really good day for me. My skis were quick and I am happy I was able to pick up my pace on the final lap to stay with Kevin (who was 5th overall today and 1st Canadian) who had an amazing performance. I really enjoyed the race course and I am looking forward to trying to crack the top ten in the 30km Pursuit on Monday. "



Local NDC member Erin Tribe finished the 10km race in 36th spot in a time of 31:23. Coach Eric Bailey said, "This was Erin's first World Championship race and I think she handled it well. She raced hard on this challenging course and I'm sure she learned a lot" The duo now gear up for the classic sprints taking place on Friday. NDC teammate Andy Shields competes tomorrow in the 1.4km Classic Sprints as part of the World Junior Championships.

Results can be found at : http://www.fis-ski.com/uk/604/1228.html?event_id=28581&cal_suchsector=CC

