

Shields Dominates at Eastern Canadian Championships!

Andy Shields of the National Development Centre-Thunder Bay Cross Country Ski Team had a phenomenal weekend at the Haywood Noram Eastern Canadian Championships in Cantley, Quebec and continued his absolute domination of the Junior category today. Winning the Junior Men's 30km classic race and placing 7th overall in the open men's category proves that he is on track for a Junior National Championship title in March. Shields was pleased with his races this weekend and commented after his race, "Another great race! Skiing with the big guys again was really mind-blowing and I hope this will carry over for Nationals in March." Shields, who is a junior aged skier has been racing up a category all weekend and has shown that he can be close to a podium in the Senior men, competing against men that are 10 years older than him. The future looks very bright for this young star.



Head Coach Eric Bailey was very impressed by the efforts of the team today. Placing 4 athletes in the top ten shows that the team is where they need to be at this time of year. He stated after the race, "Another tremendous day for NDC Thunder Bay athletes. The team as a whole put forth a really impressive effort today. The Men's 30km classic can be a grueling race and our guys fought very hard."

Michael Somppi also had a stellar race today, placing an impressive 3rd place in a strong field of 86 racers. He has proved once again that he can ski with the best in Canada and now has his sights set on a podium finish at the Canada Winter Games occurring February 21st-26th for the cross country ski races.

Harry Seaton placed a respectable 8th place in the 30km classic while Erin Tribe came 7th in the Senior Women's 15km classic race.

NDC- Thunder Bay will be sending 5 athletes to the Canada Winter Games:

Michael Somppi
Chris Hamilton
Jimmy Gunka
Andy Shields
Erin Tribe

The team will then re-join and head to the National Championships from March 11-19 in Canmore, Alberta.

