

Supertours and Superpowers

By Dudley Coulter
NDC Member 2010/2011



More and more I have come to believe that our team may just have some kind of “superpowers”. Most people would say that’s crazy, but being part of such an extraordinary team has recently made me realize how lucky we all are. We have three team members over in Estonia right now representing Canada, and the rest of us are over here in the USA kicking butt. I just can’t believe how awesome it really is.



After a solid weekend of racing it was time to conquer our wish lists at the Mall of America. This place is nuts, we walked around for three hours and still didn’t see everything. The next morning NDC hit the road in pursuit of more racing. Unfortunately, teammate Chris Hamilton got sick and had to go home, but this wouldn’t ruin our plans of dominating the next Supertour. The drive took about 8 hours, which is grueling for a bunch of hyper skiers. After passing through small hillbilly towns we finally made it to Houghton, Michigan, our home for the next week.

The seven of us that didn’t qualify for World Juniors or World U23’s drove to Minneapolis on the Thursday before the races that were to take place on Jan 23-24. After a two week cold snap in Thunder Bay, I think most of us were looking forward to some warmer temperatures, but it wasn’t going to happen there. The first race was a 10km individual freestyle race, which on the start line it was near -18. Aside from some frozen body parts, NDC had a pretty strong day, highlighting Chris Hamilton who cracked the top ten with a time of 24:47 and Harry Seaton only 3 seconds behind.



Sunday was a 15km mass start classical race; this is always fun to watch because they have over 200 racers starting at once, with 12 across, but quickly narrows down to 6 lanes. This race was very cold also, but it made for a perfect classic track with fast skis and pretty good grip. The top result of the day went to Harry who finished 15th with a time of 40:46. Even on days when our team isn’t on their top performance it’s awesome to see how fast we can still ski.

Fully focused and ready to race

The races here in Houghton kicked off with a 1.5km sprint where Scott Sullivan led our team with an impressive 5th place finish, Jimmy Gunka rounded it off with an 11th place. Saturday was a 10km Classic, the night before we received eight inches of snow, a lot of people were worrying about it, but our team took it really good and it ended up being an excellent day at the office especially for Chris Hamilton who lead the team with a 15th spot. At this point most of us were pretty tired from racing and travelling, but there was one race left to complete, a 15km freestyle mass start, the temperature was perfect, fluffy snow was falling which made for a nice hard packed and fast day out there. I lead the NDC men with a 14th place finish, on the women’s side Andrea Lee finished 6th and collected \$100 and a bouquet of her favorite flowers.



Andrea Lee (middle) skiing to an amazing 6th place finish!



Start of the 15km Mass Start Classic Race (Jimmy far left and Scott centre, #29)

Despite some sickness, and our coach being away at the World Junior and U23 Championships, our team managed ourselves and the races very well as we had great support from our assistant coach and a support crew that came to help out NDC on each weekend. Our team members that were racing in Estonia made it quite motivating and easy for us to unleash our ‘superpowers’.