

# NorAm circuit stops at Lappe!

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**T**his past weekend the NorAm circuit made a stop at Lappe Nordic. It was a real treat for the team not only to race at home but this past weekend was also qualification for several National team trips to Europe. These races were selection races for World Senior Championships, World under-23 Championships and World Junior Championships.



punching his ticket to Europe for the U23 world championships. Chris Hamilton followed in 12th, having a great race. Harry Seaton was just behind in 15th, followed by Scott Sullivan in 35th. The Junior men raced very strong with Andy Shields taking yet another win with Jimmy Gunka in 2nd! In the open women Erin Tribe led the charge with a very strong 10th place finish and Andrea in 18th.

The race weekend began on Thursday with a 30km pursuit for the open men, 20km pursuit for the junior men and 15km pursuit for the open women. A balmy -22C with the wind chill greeted the athletes at Lappe and made for a slow day on the snow. Despite the slow snow, the NDC Thunder Bay athletes raced well. On the men's side Michael Somppi led the way in 7th followed by Harry Seaton in 19th, Chris Hamilton in 20th and Leif Lennie and Scott Sullivan in 31st and 35th respectively. On the junior side Andy Shields blitzed the course and crossed the line with the win! Jimmy Gunka followed in 12th. On the women's side Erin Tribe led the NDC ladies in 14th with Andrea Lee in 15th. Day 1 shaped up to be a great start.



Jimmy Gunka (left, 303) and Andy Shields battle it out in the classic sprint final

To sum it up, after all the racing NDC Thunder Bay is sending three athletes to Europe this coming week to compete in the World Championships:

- Michael Somppi- U23 World Championships
- Andy Shields- World Junior Championships
- Erin Tribe- U23 World Championships

What a great weekend for NDC Thunder Bay! Thanks to all of our sponsors and supporters!!



The start of the men's pursuit race

Saturday the racing resumed with a classic sprint. The men raced 1.6km and the women raced 1.4km. On the open men's side Michael Somppi led the way in 9th with Harry Seaton nipping a his heels in 10th. Scott Sullivan and Chris Hamilton were 17th and 18th, followed by Leif Lennie in 33rd. In the junior category, Andy Shields raced to a strong 3rd, followed by Jimmy Gunka in a very solid 5th. The NDC ladies held their own with Andrea Lee in 9th and Erin Tribe in 11th. Day two finished with some great results.

Sunday was a middle distance skate race with an individual start. The men raced 15km and the women raced 10km. On the men's side Michael Somppi stormed the field and had the race of his year finishing 3rd, winning the U23 category and



Erin Tribe nails down a spot on the U23 World Championship Team!!

Coach Eric Bailey doing what he does best!!