



Big Thunder Nordic Ski Club

For Immediate Release

March 20, 2017

(Canmore, Alberta) A powerful contingent of Thunder Bay athletes raced in the second day of competition at the 2017 Haywood National Cross Country Ski Championships hosted by Canmore Nordic Ski Club Sunday. Surrounded by spectacular scenery, athletes had to contend with mountainous race courses as well as adapting to higher altitude. In one of the largest national championships ever, over 700 athletes will show off the highest level of Canadian cross country ski racing this week.

Challenging skate technique interval start events were held today. Jennifer Jackson, representing Lappe Nordic, turned out the best result of the day claiming the silver medal in Open Women. Big Thunder's Erik Schlyter raced to 7th place in Juvenile Boys, the swiftest Ontario athlete in the event and Lappe Nordic's Hannah Shields placed 10th in Junior Women.

Thunder Bay's National Team Development Center (NTDC) was well represented by Michael Somppi (Lappe Nordic) who placed 5th (3rd Canadian) in Open Men. Angus Foster, Levi Nadlersmith and Fergus Foster also gave strong performances in this competitive field.

Big Thunder's Junior Boys gave outstanding performances with Aleksi Luoma placing 15th overall, followed closely by Kai Meekis in 16th. Teammates Fred Serratore and Martti Muzyka as well as Lappe Nordic's Niklas Harkonen also competed.

Big Thunder Junior Girls were represented by Heidi Stewart and teammate Charlotte Johnston in Juvenile Girls.

In the Canadian Colleges and University Championships (CCUNC), Lakehead University Thunderwolves were on top with Jennifer Jackson claiming gold in the Women's competition while teammate Makaila Hudson placed 14th. Noah Thompson had the best result on the men's side at 7th, followed by Levi Warkentine and Noah Taylor in 17th and 20th respectively. Geoff Way-Nee, Gavin Shields (Lappe Nordic) and Hayden Gorman also competed.

The action will to heat up this week as the athletes continue to adapt to the tough trails and altitude. Following a training day tomorrow, racing continues Tuesday March 21st with classic technique interval start races.

Full results can be found at <http://new.zone4.ca>

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