

Sports & Recreation

Hay River swimmers off to Regina

Last day of Kimberlite Classic sees three selected for Summer Games

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Somba K'e/Yellowknife

Ruth Inch Memorial Pool in Yellowknife was electric on Saturday, as the Kimberlite Classic wrapped up.

Hay River youth swam in their last meet before either going on to the Canada Summer Games in Regina or taking a break from swimming for the summer.

Of the nine Hay River kids in attendance, three are going on to summer competition.

"They did awesome this year. We couldn't have asked for anything more," said Hay River coach Kelvin Yee, whose son Colton is going on to the Games.

"Most of them shaved 10 seconds or more off their times, which is pretty good," Yee said.

Hard training

He attributed the team's success to hard training and getting out to more meets.

While the team did achieve many personal bests this year, Yee isn't holding out hopes for any medals at the Regina com-

petition. This is because most athletes at the games will be 19 and under, while the three from Hay River are 13, 14 and 15.

Daniel Heibert is one of the boys heading to the Games for the first time.

The 15 year old has cerebral palsy and this will be his first major competition.

Pretty pumped

"He does a good job of hiding it, but I think he's pretty pumped about it," said Christy Davis, the team's assistant coach. "I'm excited for him to go to the games."

Coach Yee agreed that Heibert is thrilled with the opportunity.

"Oh, he's very excited. It's a big thing for him. He's not in a whole lot of sports because of his disability," Yee said.

Michelle Daigneault, 13, is excited to be going to Regina, too, and not just for the swimming.

"Yeah, it is pretty exciting," Michelle said. "The coach says there will be a lot more than just swimming, there will be some tours and stuff."



Kevin Allerston/NNSL photo

From left, Desiree Bouchard, Colton Yee and Jaeda Larocque of Hay River hang out between heats, Saturday, at the Kimberlite Classic swim meet in Yellowknife. Yee will be competing in the 50 and 100 metre freestyle at the Canada Summer Games in Regina.

Colton Yee will take part in the 50 and 100 metre freestyle competitions in Regina.

"It's very exciting," the younger Yee said.

He's not surprised he earned a chance to go to the Games, since he is among the fastest on the Hay River team, but he was happy with

improvements he made this year that got him to this point.

"It started out like an ordinary season," he said.

"Then my dad taught me

how to do other stuff. Then I went to a camp and they taught me some other stuff. I just added it to my swim and it just got better."