

Sports

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Sports Briefs

NWT cross country runners take to trails in Alberta

The Northwest Territories' best cross country runners took to the hills last Saturday during the 2007 Alberta Cross Country Championships in Edmonton.

Many Hay River and former Hay River runners had significant showings.

Fort Simpson's Alicia Norris finished fourth in the pee wee girls 1500 meter run with a time of 6:12.15 - just 20 seconds behind the winner.

Four NWT runners finished in the top 20 in the pee wee boys 1500 meter run. Hay River's Joel Demarcke finished in sixth place with a time of 6:04.59; Fort Smith's Evan Tordiff finished in 10th; Hay River's Jordan Schumann finished in 12th and Levon Schumann finished in 16th.

The NWT team finished first overall in the team standings, edging out the Willow Park School team by two points.

In the bantam girls 2000 meter run, Hay River's Angeline Magtibay ended up in the middle of the pack - finishing 19th in a field of 31 runners. Magtibay crossed the line just over a minute behind the lead pack.

In the bantam boys 2000 meter run, Hay River's Gavin Broadhead fought his way to a top-ten finish, taking eighth place with a time of 7:41.82.

HR teams battle it out at Junior Spike It! in YK

Three Hay River volleyball teams that travelled to Yellowknife last weekend for the Junior Spike It! tournament fought hard all weekend but were unable to win any banners.

Diamond Jenness sent two teams: a junior girls team and a junior boys team. The junior girls won their opening game but were unable to win either of their remaining games. The boys team won two of their games but lost in the crossover game.

École Boréale sent a Grade 8 girls team to compete and came close to winning the title.

After opening the tournament with three wins in four games, the team lost to a strong team from St. Joe's in Yellowknife in the final by a score of 25-23 and 25-18.

Swim Club dives headfirst into new season

BY PATRICK FRANCIS TESKEY
HUB REPORTER

Even with the overall numbers of swimmers down slightly, the Hay River Swim Club is confident they can build on their successes from last year.

Head coach Kelvin Yee said the club is currently trying to attract more swimmers to help rebuild the core of the club.

"We're a pretty young team right now," said Yee. "We're really aggressively trying to bring more kids into the club."

Yee said the club is in good shape with senior swimmers Colton Yee, Mason Hachey and Jacky Strong returning. Jaeda Larocque has rejoined the club for the coming season.

Club president Michael St. John said the club has reorganized itself during the off-season. Gone are the rookie, junior, intermediate and senior classifications of swimmers. In their place, the club is now broken up into cubs one, cubs two, bronze, silver and gold swimmers. The change will allow the younger swimmers to develop at their own pace.

"The beginner swimmers can come in easily and see how much they like it because you don't want to give them too much at the beginning," St. John said. "Let them get a little bit of swimming and get used to it."

Yee said the change will also ensure the youngest swimmers get the most out of their practices while not holding back the slightly more advanced swimmers.

"We found it was a little tougher to try and keep the interest of the six-year-olds so we split them up this year," said Yee.

St. John said the change also allows for more interaction between the younger and older swimmers.

"We have more overlap with the swim times so the kids get to see the other groups in the pool," he said.

"It's been a great working environment. The kids are having fun and are learning."

The younger swimmers - many of whom took part in the Summer Heat program - are further along than their predecessors, Yee said.

"The younger kids that are coming in ... are already more advanced than the previous kids who came in," said Yee. "That's nice because it makes it easier on the coaches too. They don't worry about teaching the kid how to swim, they can teach the finer dynamics of the strokes."

The season will get underway for five of the club's swimmers this weekend when they head south to Grande Prairie, Alberta to compete in a season opening swim meet. The club will be sending two of their twelve-year-old swimmers plus three of the gold swimmers. While Yee is excited to get the season underway, he is being realistic about the team's chances at the meet.

"Basically this meet is just to get their times and get them accustomed to the swim season starting again," he said. "I'm not really hoping for too much except to get a base time and we'll go from there."

Hay River will host its first ever swim meet two weeks later, when some of the Northwest



Simon Barry chases Lyndon Yee in butterfly practice as the Hay River Swim Club puts its swimmers through their paces Oct. 26 at the Hay River Aquatic Centre. The club kicks off its season with a meet in Grande Prairie, Alberta Nov. 2 and 3.

Territories' top swimmers take over the aquatic centre Nov. 17-18. With last year's fun meet acting as a warm-up, Yee is hopeful the meet will go smoothly.

"It's still going to be early in the season but I'm hoping what can happen from it is the townspeople will see what's going on and they'll see the excitement and maybe that will generate some more interest in the swim club," Yee explained.

Due to the strict nature of the rules governing swim meets in the NWT, and because of the overall drop in numbers this year, Yee said the club would be calling on the citizens of Hay River to chip in and lend a hand if possible during the meet.

"We're going to need people to help out," he said.

"We're down in numbers so that limits the number of parents we have. We'll be looking for any support from the town we can get."

Yee said the drop in overall numbers is due to the complex and technical nature of the sport.

"It's not like hockey where you can throw on a pair of skates and fall down a half a dozen times and you're okay," he said. "If you can't swim, you're going to drown."

The club also had to deal with a lot of swimmers moving away over the summer, while others left because they simply did not enjoy it anymore.

"Swimming is a grueling sport - it's not simple," said Yee.

"A lot of people have to enjoy it or they don't like it at all."

With assistant coaches Rebecca Thompson, Leslie Bouchard, and Michael St. John busy with the preparations for the Grande Prairie meet, Yee put out a call for volunteers - experienced or not - to lend a hand during the home meet. Anyone interested in helping out can contact Yee at work (874-2850) or home (874-2145).

Hay River's Hiebert named CHL player of the week

Hay River's James Hiebert continues to make a name for himself with the Central Hockey League's Laredo Bucks.

Hiebert picked up five goals and two assists in the Bucks first three games to pick up player of the week honours, while helping the Bucks open the season with a perfect three and zero record.

In the season-opening contest on Oct. 19 versus the New Mexico Scorpions, Hiebert scored two goals, including the game winner,

while adding one assist as the Bucks opened the 2007-2008 campaign with an impressive 8-2 drubbing of the Scorpions in their home building.

The following evening, Hiebert picked up another two goals on two shots as the Bucks pulled out a thrilling 5-4 overtime win over the Scorpions.

Three days later, Hiebert added one goal and one assist as the Bucks improved to 3 and 0 with a 6-0 win over the Amarillo Gorillas.

In his first three games, Hiebert picked up one powerplay goal, one shorthanded goal and one game-winning goal to win the CHL/Oakley player of the week award for the second time in his career.

Hiebert's strong start continued in week two.

While Hiebert was kept off the scoresheet in the Bucks home opener on Oct. 26, a 7-0 win over the Corpus Christi Rayz, he finished with a plus two rating.

The following evening, Hiebert

picked up his sixth and seventh goals of the season when the Bucks downed the Amarillo Gorillas by a count of 9-3.

The Bucks travelled to Corpus Christi the following afternoon, and improved to 6 and 0 with their third shutout of the season, a 2-0 win over the Rayz.

As of Oct. 29, Hiebert sits fourth in league scoring with seven goals and three assists in six games.

The Bucks take on the Rio Grande Valley Killer Bees tomorrow.