

Sports

Wednesday, November 21, 2007

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Sports Briefs

Snorkel classes begin Nov. 24

Heading south for the holidays? The Hay River Aquatic Centre will be offering snorkel classes for four consecutive Saturdays at the Hay River Aquatic Centre beginning on Nov. 24.

The classes will be held from 9:30-11:30 a.m. and will have a maximum of 10 participants. The cost per participant is \$125 and includes the snorkel, fins and mask, which the participants get to keep at the end of the sessions. Participants must be a minimum of eight years of age.

Contact the Aquatic Centre at 874-6500 for more information.

First Nations Cup in YK Dec. 14-16

The annual First Nations Cup Hockey Tournament, the largest all-Aboriginal hockey tournament north of 60, is rapidly approaching.

There is a \$1,000 registration fee per team which must be paid by Nov. 30. In addition, players must pay a \$30 membership fee by Dec. 7.

Action gets underway on Dec. 14 at 4 p.m. at the Yellowknife Multiplex Arena.

Call Barrett Lenoir (867) 873-4081 for more information.

Hay River Ski Club

SNOW REPORT

Snow conditions are good this week. The skate trails are fast. The classic trails are cut and the lights are on.

Biathlon race this weekend. Race starts at 2:00pm Saturday and 11:00 pm Sunday. Trails are open during the race. Become a member at www.hayriver-skiclub.com

The trail lights are on all night.

For more info, visit hayriverskiclub.com

For ski equipment & supplies contact

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874-6337

Lions roar to victory at home swim meet

The Hay River Lions Swim Club competed in a swim meet in some unusual surroundings last weekend - their home pool.

For the first time in the two-year history of the Hay River Aquatic Centre, the Lions welcomed members of the Yellowknife Polar Bears team to town Saturday and Sunday for the Elks Swim Meet.

Every local swimmer set at least one personal best in front of their hometown fans, which impressed head coach Kelvin Yee.

"What was really nice was some of the younger kids that don't travel got medals so that was good," said Yee.

"It was good. Some of those swims were pretty long for those rookies. It was great to see them finish and come out of the pool with a smile on their faces."

The pool deck and viewing area were packed both days with parents and friends who either came out to volunteer or to cheer on the local swimmers. The Yellowknife team lent a big hand as well. Yee said the swimmers noticed the support and were thankful.

"That was great," he said. "It was nice to see. We had a lot of people out."

One local parent was on pins and needles watching his six year-old daughter compete in her first-ever swim meet.

Rob Hancock, who came out to cheer on his daughter Alicia, said he was happy with the weekend's results.

"It was pretty impressive," he said. "She made it all the way here and back. She did well."

On occasion Hancock said it was tough to see his

daughter struggle through her 50 metre swims.

"It was a little nerve-racking," said Hancock. "I wanted to jump in there and save her in the deep end."

Swim Club president Michael St. John said the event went smoothly with no glitches - apart from the weather delaying the arrival of the Yellowknife team by 30 minutes on Saturday morning.

"I think it went really well - the kids had fun," said St. John. "Our goal was for the kids to come out and have fun."

With the success of the inaugural meet still fresh in his mind, St. John said the club hopes to further expand the meet next year.

"We'd like to invite some more teams - either from Northern Alberta or the NWT," he said. "It's still a competition but most of the kids were out there to have fun."

Yee said his swimmers knew what to expect from the Polar Bears, having competed against them many times in the past.

"There were no surprises," he said. "It went well. Everybody enjoyed it. It was fun. For the first official meet in this pool, it was a blast."

Colton Yee, who won the men's 15 and over title, also set one personal best in the 50 metre butterfly, was not satisfied with his performance.

"I got 29.63 in my 50 fly but the rest of them weren't that good," Yee said. "I didn't get any more best times."

The Hay River swimmers' next meet is the Shoppers Drug Mart meet in Yellowknife in January.

See Page 11 for results.



Hay River Lions swimmer Mason Hachey makes the turn during the men's 50 metre freestyle race on Sunday at the Hay River Aquatic Centre. Every Hay River swimmer recorded at least one personal best during the two-day meet.

photo by PATRICK FRANCIS TESKEY

Local women's hockey league sees record numbers

The Hay River Hazards Women's Hockey League are in the midst of a record-breaking season.

Seventy-two women have joined the league this year, a significant increase over last year's total of 60.

League president Shelley Maher is pleased with the interest in the league and thinks the reason for the jump in numbers this season is simple.

"I just think that hockey is a fun sport to play and it just continues to be a good option for people in town," she said Monday. "And I think people like to learn new things."

While the talent of the returning members is mind-boggling, Maher was most impressed by how the rook-

ie skaters have taken to the game.

"I'm finding that the beginners this year are either people that have played hockey before or they are just so gung-ho that they're catching on faster than we've ever seen," said Maher. "They are a very positive group of people. They just want to soak it up as fast as possible. They are amazing."

Much of the credit for the improvement among the beginners lies at the feet of a talented group of coaches, Maher said.

Christy Davis, Kim Ivanko and Trina Daigneault lend a hand week in and week out to get the skaters prepared for their weekly games.

"It's been a really amazing beginning," Maher said. "They (the coaches) have made a real big difference."

In addition to the regular season games, eight members of the league tried out for the Western Shields NWT team on Tuesday. The championship takes place next April in Winnipeg and is the highest level of female hockey for teams playing below the AAA level.

Maher said the league will also be sending teams to compete in a tournament in Fort Smith Dec. 1-2. The tournament is a great way to bring the teams together, Maher explained.

"It just such a fun tour for us," she said. "I think we've always done well. It's just mostly to get games in."



Shelley Maher's point shot eludes Brette Jameson during Team A's 5-2 win over Jameson and Team D on Saturday night at the Ben Sivertz Arena.