

**Club skaters  
earn seven medals**  
Page 24

# Sports & Recreation

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**Paddlers take on  
kayak-polo in Edmonton**  
Page 25



photo courtesy of Sean Ivens

**Danielle Patzer cuts through the water** during a freestyle race at the Northern Lights Invitational Swim Meet in Grande Prairie, Alta., on Feb. 6.

## SPORTS Check

with James McCarthy

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### Mushing for the games

The NWT's final remaining entry for the Arctic Winter games – the dog sledding team – will be decided on the trails of Fort Smith, beginning Feb. 26.

Eight teams will vie for four spots on Team NWT's entry to the games in Grande Prairie, Alta., which begin on March 6. Six of the dog teams are from Yellowknife, driven by mushers Alexis Campbell, Nathaniel Hamlyn, Talston McQueen, Satie Lizotte, Trista Beck and Zack Campbell.

Race organizer Carol Beck said the qualifiers will take place over two days. The top racer in each of the juvenile and junior male and female divisions will make the final cut.

See the next edition of *Yellowknifer* for the results.

### NWT Day at Olympics

It's NWT Day today at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver. The group of 16 Dene games and Arctic sports athletes will be out and about in the lower mainland of B.C. to demonstrate Northern sports.

Later this evening, seven of the athletes will take part in the victory celebrations, where medals will be presented. The group of seven will demonstrate Dene Games and Arctic sports as part of the evening's festivities at B.C. Place in downtown Vancouver. You can follow the team's progress on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' website.

# Phenomenal medal haul

*Polar Bear Club swimmers nab nearly two dozen medals in Grande Prairie, Alta.*

by James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

If swimming were part of the Arctic Winter Games, the NWT would do just fine.

Twelve members of the Yk Polar Bear Swim Club hit the water in Grande Prairie, Alta., for the Northern Lights Invitational Swim Meet, which wrapped up on Feb. 7. The team showed just how potent

it can be, winning a total of 23 medals, two of which were gold. Six of those medals, including one of the gold medals in the boys U-10 400-metre freestyle, were won by Neo Gleason. He said winning a half-dozen medals was an awesome feeling.

"I was surprised when they told me I had won the gold medal," he said. "I didn't

expect to win because it was the first 400-metre for me, but I enjoy doing the longer distance events because I'm a long distance events guy."

Aodhan Mooney was also a big winner, taking home five medals in total and was the other gold medal winner in the girls U-10 50-metre backstroke. She said she felt a sense of pride when she

received her medals.

"When you get them, it makes you feel pretty proud," she said.

Mooney went to the event last year and won three medals. She said the hardest part about the event is making sure you're prepared properly.

"You always go through

See **Preparation, page 24**

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# Preparation pays off

**Phenomenal**, from page 23

the race in your head," she said. "When you get up on the blocks, you always think about what you have to do."

Club head coach Jane Mooney said the meet was a great chance for the junior swimmers to get a chance to show their stuff.

"We had two of our U-10's (Gleason and Mooney) qualify for the junior B Alberta provincial trials from this meet," she said. "We brought less swimmers this time around and won a lot more. We also had a 90 per cent rate of personal bests for our group, which is a phenomenal number."

The club is now gearing up for the Shoppers Drug Mart NWT Championships, which take place at the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool beginning



photo courtesy of Sean Ivens

**Aodhan Mooney goes for the wall** during a butterfly race at the Northern Lights Invitational Swim Meet in Grande Prairie, Alta., on Feb. 6.

tomorrow afternoon at 1 p.m. Both Aodhan Mooney and Gleason have goals for what they want to do.

"I want to get some more B

times," said Mooney.

"I want to break some records," said Gleason. "I don't care what event, but I'm hoping for one in the butterfly."