

# Yk team leads the way at territorials

*Polar Bear Swim Club dominates standings at NWT championships*

by James McCarthy  
Northern News Services

The Polar Bear Swim Club once again shone in the pool, this time at home.

The club's swimmers took top overall honours in most of the divisions at the Fieldlaw NWT Swimming Championships at the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool, which wrapped up on Feb. 13. More than 100 swimmers in total from Yellowknife and Hay River were in the water looking to grab a territorial championship and when all was said and done, a lot of familiar names were at the top of the podium.

Cassie Mooney ended up taking top spot overall in the girls 15 and over division, scoring the maximum total of 49 points over seven individual swims.

She said she knew the target was on her back the entire weekend.

"I know a lot of swimmers want to beat me," she said. "When it came to the 50 (metre events), it was tough because I'm not much of a sprinter. I'm more of a long-distance swimmer, but I got lucky in some of my events."

## Nailed down times

Polar Bear head coach Jane Mooney said besides the medals, some swimmers also nailed down some important times.

"A couple of the surprises were Kyle Lee and Breton Walker and they got their B qualifying times," she said.

Those qualifying times mean a trip to the Alberta Age Group Trials in Edmonton from Feb. 25 to 27 and brings the number of swimmers going travelling to five. Along with Walker and Lee, Danielle Patzer, Bronson Dolynny and Aodhan Mooney, all in the U-14 class, are also making the trip.

Patzer, who finished second in the girls



Salomon Crowe photo

**Danielle Patzer, seen during the Northern Lights Swim Meet in Grande Prairie, Alta., on Feb. 5, was one of the top swimmers at the Field Law NWT Swimming Championships at the Ruth Inch Memorial Pool on Feb. 13.**

11-12 division behind Aodhan Mooney, said she also came close to hitting her times for the Western Canada Summer Games this coming August in Kamloops, B.C.

"I got disqualified in the 100-metre breast-stroke for pulling too far with my arms in the water," she said. "Aodhan's hard to catch once she gets going, but we're pretty even in speed."

Jane Mooney also said around 80 per cent of the club set new personal bests for themselves.

Cassie Mooney, meanwhile, had a couple of big goals in her mind and she got one of them.

"I wanted to break five minutes in the 400-metre freestyle," she said. "I just told myself no more messing around, just go out and do it and I did." For the record, her time was four minutes, 59.56 seconds.

The other goal was to break 20 minutes in the 1,500-metre freestyle, but she missed that one by 2.34 seconds.

Cassie Mooney has a bit of a break right now until the BHP Billiton Kimberlite Swim Meet in April, although she said there is the possibility of going to Alberta to do some races.

"It all depends on whether the club wants to go," she said. "I'm going to hit the pool hard and work on the little things I have to do."

Those swimmers heading to Edmonton will keep on training, mostly on the mental side, said coach Mooney.