

Swim meet season wraps up

Hay River sisters take gold; first-time Inuvik competitor wins silver at final NWT event

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services
Somba K'e/Yellowknife

Swimmers from the Inuvik Muskrats and Hay River Lions clubs got one last good chance to hit the podium in Yellowknife as the Polar Bear Swim Club hosted the annual BHP Billiton Kimberlite Classic Swim Meet on May 14 and 15.

Nearly six dozen swimmers from the three communities competed in the hopes of earning a medal and quite a few did so, including Kierra McDonald of Inuvik, who won a silver medal in the U-8 girls division, scoring a total of 39 of a possible 49 points on offer. Each swim was worth seven points for a win.

This was her first competitive meet and she said it was a good first time, especially winning a silver medal.

"I'm happy," she said.

Her teammate Kyra McDonald won the bronze medal in the same division

and Maya Krizan, also from the Muskrats club, won the silver medal in the 9-10 girls division, totaling 37 points in her seven swims.

Hay River found success at the top of the podium in the sister act of Megan and Allie Buhler won gold medals in their respective divisions and both went a perfect seven for seven in their swims, Allie in the 9-10 girls and Megan in the U-8 girls.

"They're both very committed swimmers who practise hard."

Lions head coach Kelvin Yee said he knew his two young swimmers would be near the top.

"They're both very committed swimmers who practise hard and come to every practice," he said. "They're both very competitive as well."

The Lions club's Colton and Lyndon Yee were also in the pool over that weekend. Lyndon missed out on the podium in the 15 and over boys, but Colton won a bronze medal in the same division.

Coach Yee said a mistake



James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Tessie Chinna of Inuvik takes a breath during the 15-and-over girls medley relay at the BHP Billiton Kimberlite Classic Swim Meet in Yellowknife on May 15.

in the 200-metre individual medley event cost him a shot at gold.

"He got disqualified in the backstroke section and it was all a mental error," he said. "He's been trying a new turn and it's all about timing, but he got flagged for it. He never gets disqualified, I think it's only the second time in his career it's happened." The meet season is now over in the NWT, but the work is still on for the Yee brothers and Megan Buhler. The Yees and Buhler will be on their way to compete at the Silver Cup meet in Edmonton beginning on May 28.

In addition to the Edmonton event, Colton Yee is still trying to nail down a qualifying time in the 50-metre freestyle for the Canadian Senior Championships this year and Coach Yee said he's almost there.

"He needs 24 seconds to qualify and he needs to take one second off," he said. "He has the capability, but he has to buckle down and get that confidence to go fast. He's done it at practice and now it comes down to thinking about it."



James McCarthy/NNSL photo

Colton Yee of Hay River comes up for air during the 15-and-over boys 200-metre individual medley at the BHP Billiton Kimberlite Classic Swim Meet in Yellowknife on May 15.

SPORTS CARD SOCCER

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Alex enjoys playing soccer because it's the one sport he fell in love with from the very beginning. "I get to play with all of my friends and I love it," he said. His favourite team is Barcelona from La Liga in Spain.



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