



Ripe and Ready for World Championship Fever

Thunder Bay race season kicks off at Lappe Nordic Ski Centre

Sixty racers from Thunder Bay and surrounding area competed in the first cross-country ski race of the season at Lappe Nordic Ski Centre on Saturday.

Big Thunder Head Coach Adam Kates said the first race of the year is always a chance for the athletes to test their legs and early season form. “Usually the first race doesn’t happen until December but we were lucky the snow came early this year. This is the best snow in Ontario and maybe even some of the best in Canada.”

Not only was this first race a chance for skiers to test out their legs, it was a chance for race organizers to test out their equipment. Chief of Timing, Rod Somppi, said “the day went off without a hitch. There were a lot of new faces and a lot of new learning.” While he was happy with the turnout he says he will need to double the amount of volunteers for the upcoming race season.

There are less than 2 months to go until the Haywood Noram World Championship Trials, where anywhere from 300-500 racers from across Canada and the U.S. will descend on Thunder Bay from January 6th-9th, 2011. The local ski clubs, LU Varsity Nordic Ski Team, and the National Development Centre are taking home course advantage to prep for the upcoming trial races. Erin Tribe, NDC member says, “We have home course advantage to train on the trails here and get to know them inside and out”.

Having a race of this caliber means a lot to the athletes and the community. “Athletes have the competitive advantage of sleeping in their own beds, knowing where the grocery store is, knowing the

course, but most importantly having a hometown crowd” said Eric Bailey, head coach of NDC. “We don’t spend much time in TBay so this is the chance to show the incredible talent of our athletes and to share what we do with the community.”

To see results, go to www.zone4.ca For more information about the World Championship Trials go to www.skinoram2011.com or if you are interested in becoming a volunteer please e-mail Worldtrials2011@gmail.com