



Devon Kershaw seen mixing it up in the team sprint event at the last year's Winter Olympics.

Canadian Devon Kershaw is shaking up the old order in cross-country skiing.

The 27-year old, born and raised in Sudbury, Ontario, cross country skied his way to his first career stage victory during the 2010-2011 Tour de Ski Wednesday.

In the traditionally Scandinavian and Russian dominated sport, Kershaw had been previously been close. In the fifth stage he had finished second in a photo-finish, and he recorded two top five finishes at the Olympics in February, but on Wednesday he finally broke through, and in dramatic fashion.

During the 1.3 k skate sprint, Kershaw made his way through a tricky quarter-final, and then finished third in his semi-final, leaving him waiting for the results of the second semi-final to find out if his time was fast enough to advance to the final. Advancing by a mere 0.1 of a second, Kershaw then lined up in the final against some of the best skiers in the world, including Dario Cologna (SUI) and Petter Northug (NOR).

Hailing from Ona-Wa-Su, a small club based in a quiet Northern Ontario city more often associated with mining than producing elite cross country skiers, Kershaw refused to be intimidated.

In fact, Kershaw did the unthinkable. With skills honed skiing on the technical trails in Onaping Falls, and the winding stretches of Laurentian University campus trails a mere 10 minutes from his home, halfway through the fast-paced race, Kershaw attacked hard. In thirty seconds, he created a 15 meter gap over the rest of the field, including Northug, the Norwegian skier who out-sprinted Kershaw during the finishing stretch at the Olympic Games in Vancouver last February.

In addition to the stage win on Wednesday, Kershaw has finished second twice, and now sits in 10th overall in the Tour de Ski. The Tour de Ski is the ultimate cross country skiing endurance event in the world, and features the best athletes from 20 countries taking on 8 races in 10 days over two countries in Europe.