



ODART ontario disabled alpine racing team

O.D.A.R.T. Racers Perform Admirably at 2007 Canadian Para – Alpine Championships

Racers from the Ontario Disabled Alpine Racing Team had a great week at the Canadian Para-Alpine Ski Championships this past week, at Kimberly Resort in Kimberly British Columbia. Soaring temperatures and sunshine made for a beautiful week, and the race courses held up remarkably well, thanks to the outstanding efforts of the Kimberly race crews and groomers.

In the women's category, Jan Hymers of Brampton was steady as ever, turning in a solid 6th place in the giant slalom. Alexandra Creighton of Toronto, making her first appearance at a national championship, surprised everyone, including her coaches, with a 5th place finish in the same race.

In the men's visually impaired category, Ken Roche of Kitchener, along with guide Viki Larouche of Toronto, turned in their runs of the year in both first runs of the slalom and giant slalom, yet were unable to complete either second run. The non-results were still a great victory for the duo, competing together for the first season ever. Veteran blind racer and ODART president David Brown of Toronto, along with guide Gwen Binsfeld of King City, also had trouble in the treacherous slalom, but did manage a triumph in claiming bronze in the giant slalom race.

In the very competitive men's sitting division, veteran Andre Nasvytis of Dundas, actually finished not 1, not 2, but 3 races. Nasvytis, well known for his high velocity, reckless abandon Bodie Miller style, was able to maintain control long enough to finish 7th in one super G, and the giant slalom, and dazzled the crowd by taking the bronze in the other super G race. Third year phenom Andy Van Grunsven of Kingston, impressed all onlookers, claiming silver medals in both the giant slalom and one super G event. Van Grunsven edged out national team member Brad Lennea of B.C. by the slimmest of margins in the giant slalom, 1/100th of a second. Brad, however, would enact his revenge over everyone in the slalom. Another victory for Andy was claimed, when he was invited to attend the National Development Team training camp, next month at Whistler B.C.



Ontario had 4 entries in the always competitive men's standing category. Last season's ODART rookie of the year, Will Goessaert of Toronto, picked up some invaluable experience, competing at his first ever national championships. After a disappointing crash at the end of the first day super G, Will showed great intestinal fortitude and perseverance, completing the rest of the events, and improving his results each day. Will finished 13th in the second super G, followed by a 12th in the giant slalom, and an impressive 8th place finish in the slalom. Last season's most improved racer, Neil Mosburger of Kitchener, was one of only two ODART members to complete all 4 races. Neil finished 12th and 10th in the super G events, 11th in the giant slalom, and 9th in the slalom. Last season's racer of the year, Robert "Franz" Scott, was plagued with equipment problems most of the week, but still managed to turn in 3 top 10 finishes, taking 9th place in the giant slalom, and 9th and 7th in the two super G races. James Binsfeld of King City, was the other ODART athlete to complete all 4 events, making it to the podium no less than 3 times. James took 4th in the giant slalom, bronze in a super G, bronze in the slalom, and captured the silver in the other super G event. The performances of the week, however, would come from long time national team member Jeff Dickson of Sudbury, who showed that he is still the one to beat in the stand up category, or any category for that matter, finishing first in the giant slalom and one super G, and coming in a close second in the other super G.

Congratulations to all the competitors and participants at the races and 2007 CADS festival. Special thanks must go out to the Marriot Trickle Creek, Mike Cooper & North Star Racing at Kimberly Resort, TD Paul Maier all the way from the USA, Peter Engstad of Alpine Canada, and all the coaches and volunteers, especially ODART's own Bob "Pie Face" Guenther, for spending most of his birthday week in the timing hut. We look forward to seeing you all at next year's event. Next up for ODART is the annual awards banquet. Stay tuned.