



ODART ontario disabled alpine racing team

Ontario Racers Bring Home Eight Medals From National Championships

The Ontario Disabled Alpine Racing Team returned home from the Canadian National Disabled Ski Championships, with 8 medals, and some impressive results to build on for the future.

This year's championships were held at Mount Washington Ski Resort, near Comox British Columbia, on beautiful Vancouver Island, from March 27th to 30th, 2006. The races were attended by over 50 racers from right across Canada. The competition consisted of 2 slalom, and 2 giant slalom races.

In the men's visually impaired division, Ken Roche of Kitchener captured 3 medals. Roche took the bronze in one slalom race, and silver and bronze in the two giant slalom contests. In the women's standing division, Jan Hymers of Brampton came home with a sixth place finish in the giant slalom. It was her first National Championship competition in almost 10 years.

The standing men had a great week at Mount Washington. Canadian National Team member Steve Wall of Mississauga, was 6th in giant slalom, 5th in one slalom, and brought home the silver medal in the first slalom race of the week. James Binsfeld of King City was 6th and 5th in the giant slaloms, and took 7th in one slalom and captured the bronze in the other. Neil Mosburger of Kitchener had 3 solid finishes at his first ever Canadian Championship. Mosburger was 9th in one slalom race, and finished 12th and 9th in each of the giant slalom contests.

The sit ski division included 5 Ontario competitors. Paralympian Jeff Penner of Kitchener was the cream of the crop. Penner brought home 3 medals, taking 2 bronze medals in one slalom and one in GS, then capturing Ontario's only gold in the other giant slalom race. Toronto's Rich VanDerwal, returned to the Canadians, with a 5th place finish in one slalom, and a 7th place finish in the first GS, followed by an impressive bronze medal performance in the second giant slalom race. Veteran racer Bill Brouse of Puslinch, was twice 7th in one GS and one slalom, and just missed the podium finishing 4th in the other slalom competition. National Series points leader Andre Nasvytis of Dundas, raced on the edge all week, but could only muster one result, a 6th in the giant slalom. Rookie racer Sam Danniels of Toronto had the guts to enter his first ever disabled ski race at the national level. Although he was unable to record any official results, Sam had a couple of successful runs, and shows great promise as a young racer to watch in the future.

O.D.A.R.T. wishes to thank all the coaches, racers, and volunteers, for contributing to a fabulous week of racing. Special thanks go out to the incredible race crew and hill groomers at Mount Washington, and Alpine Canada's Al Matile and Pete Engstad. The championships could not have happened without your support. Stay tuned for the 2006 Ontario Disabled Alpine Racing Team awards.