

The 2010 Ontario Para Alpine championships were held at Calabogie on January 23rd and 24th as part of the Ontario ParaSport Winter Games. We were fortunate to have Jill Valentine from ParaSport Ontario with us for the entire weekend. Her friend David captured many action photos and has made them available by clicking on these links:

<http://picasaweb.google.com/lh/sreid?uname=DesignsPlus0&target=ALBUM&id=5430668037310421345&authkey=Gv1sRgCJmovPmv7LSAag&invite=CN67mbMG&feat=email> ,

or

<http://www.facebook.com/#/pages/ParaSport-Ontario/91053944315?ref=nf>

Saturday saw the giant slalom championship race.

In the junior female division, Sandy Robinson added another silver medal to her list of accomplishments for her young alpine career. In the female division, veteran Jan Hymers, set the pace with 2 good runs that her competitors could not match. Sarah Demers in her second year of racing put in a good showing to win the silver. Tracy Schmitt made her first appearance on the podium with a bronze having just come off a year of recovery from injury. Tracy was presented with the Shoppers Home Health Care Award of Merit. Alex Creighton made a wise decision to enjoy her birthday celebrations and save herself for another day of racing. It was a junior male ODART sweep on the podium, with the first of 2 gold medal runs by Mike Whitney followed by Will Gosseart with silver and Kaemon Dubeau with bronze . New ODART member, blind skier, Brad Barker and his guide, Kathleen Connelly, put in a respectable performance but found stiff competition to switch focus to after previous educational commitments. Harley Koffman continually gained speed down the course but missed a gate and had to wait to race again the next day. The home town advantage paid off for Andy Van Grusven as he enjoyed 2 good runs to reach the top of the podium in the mens division. James Binsfeld once again was on the podium with a solid silver showing. A new addition to the ODART team, Jeff Bond rounded out the medalists with the bronze.

Sunday was the slalom championships.

Sandy Robinson continued her collection of hardware with her second silver medal of the weekend for the junior females. In the female division, Jan Hymers made it a double gold weekend with very consistent slalom times. Sarah Demers was a close second to capture the silver medal. Mike Whitney must have taken some tips from his team mate Jan as he also completed two very consistent slalom times to sweep the weekend junior male events. Will Goesseart fought hard on the first run and improved on his second run to take the bronze medal. Kaemon Dubeau and Harley Koffman both improved on their second slalom runs to post results in an event that even able bodied fore runners had challenges to complete successfully.

In a tight race, James Binsfeld took the honours in the mens division. Jeff Bond claimed his second medal of the weekend and Neil Mosburger provided good competition to round out the field. Andy Van Grusven completed both runs but couldn't keep up the same pace as the previous day on the turnier slalom course.

Thanks to everyone at Calabogie for a great weekend! A special thanks to family and friends who provided support in all areas of the weekend events. New head coach, Sean Fuller, in his first official event with the team, stepped in to provide positive motivation for the entire team.

The athletes will now train for the Canadian championships in March at Mount Washington B.C.