

2 Podium Placings at IPC Biathlon World Cups

By: Mark Arendz

The Para-Nordic Ski Team has just wrapped the IPC Biathlon World Cups for the season. The season was a strong showing by the Canadians ahead of the home Paralympics in March. The only Biathlon competitions that remain for the team are the Pursuit and the Individual at the Paralympics, held from March 12- 21. ParaNordic Head Biathlon Coach Celine Feagan had this to say; “These World Cup Races were the first test for the team this year. The success on the range and on the course against the Paralympic contenders shows that we are on track for some solid performances in Whistler.”

Jody Barber from Smithers, BC had her best ever World Cup result with a second place and shooting clean, in the Biathlon Sprint in Bessans, France as a LW8 in the Women’s Standing category. In the Biathlon Pursuit she was fifth in the qualifying round and finished sixth in the final. To sum up her season she says, “My skiing is very solid and there has been a huge improvement in my shooting, so I now feel in the mix.”

Mark Arendz from Springton, PEI also posted some best ever results in the Men’s Standing category. A fourth place in the Bessans’ Sprint, hitting 10 for 10. In Oberreid, Germany he had his first Biathlon World Cup podium, finishing in third in the Biathlon Pursuit despite missing one shot in each of the two bouts of the final. “In the past years my shooting was what gave me promising results, this season my skiing has been more consistent. The great results have given me the confidence that I can do well in Vancouver.”

Robbi Weldon of Thunder Bay, ON continued her consistent World Cup results in the Women’s Visually Impaired category.

Other notable results were an eighth place by Margarita Gorbounova, a Women’s Visually Impaired skier from Ottawa, ON. Alexi Novikov finished fourteenth in the Men’s Visually Impaired category. For complete results check out www.ipc-nordicskiing.org.