

Hamilton Qualifies for World Under 23 Championships



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Thunder Bay native, Chris Hamilton of the National Development Centre - Thunder Bay and Big Thunder Nordic Ski Club, found out today that he will be representing Canada at the World Under 23 Cross Country Ski Championships taking place in Erzurum, Turkey from February 19th-26th. Hamilton proved that he is one of the top distance racers his age in the country as he solidified his spot on the Canadian Team by placing 2nd in last Sunday's 15km classic race as well as 4th in the men's 30km pursuit race on Thursday.

He had great performances at the Canadian trial races and was very satisfied with his results, "The 15km race was amazing! I went into these races very confident in my training and preparation, I'd been thinking of these races since the start of the training season back in May", Hamilton said after his race. Only 4 men and 4 women are selected to be a part of the U23 team heading to Turkey and Hamilton is very excited to be a part of this team. " I'm extremely excited by my selection onto the Canadian Team to compete at Under 23 World Championships in Turkey. The opportunity to ski for Canada on the international stage has been a goal for so many years and now I've finally got my chance! I'm looking forward to racing at Worlds and hope to show my full potential as a top level racer."

Chris also praises the support he received from the NDC staff over the weekend as a key measure in his success, "The staff on NDC were perfect in their technical preparation of my skis which helped me to go into the races with 100% confidence in my ability to perform at my best."

Hamilton is currently in Canmore, AB getting ready for the Western Canadian Championships taking place this weekend. He will return to Thunder Bay early next week in preparation for the World Championships.

The official team selection notice from Cross Country Canada can be found here: <http://www.cccski.com/Media/Press-Releases/Cross-Country-Canada-Names-Under-23-and-Junior-Wor.aspx>

Additional Quotes from Hamilton:

"The level of support that I've received from everyone in Thunder Bay has been truly spectacular. I've had so many words of encouragement and congratulations, its been amazing. I really want to thank everyone that has been involved in my development from the club systems in Thunder Bay (Kamview, Lappe and Big Thunder), onto the Provincial Team as a Junior, racing for Lakehead University and most recently NDC-Thunder Bay over the last three years. Without the level of support that Thunder Bay has offered, I don't know how I would have got to this stage."

"This weekend of racing at the selection events for World U23 went extremely well; I was able to capitalize on all the physical and technical gains I've made over the last three years on NDC in Thunder Bay and put all my focus into this important weekend of racing.

To download photos of Chris in action go to: <http://www.ntdc-tbay.on.ca/chris.htm>

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