



WinSport Mission: To provide excellence in winter sports facilities and training for Canadian athletes to **discover, develop** and **excel**, through a sustainable business model."

winSPORT WEEKLY

Friday, December 19, 2014



Our athletes up close

Madison Charney
Skeleton

The 20-year-old native of Brooks is bursting onto the World Cup circuit this season after a successful run in the junior program, where she had finishes of ninth and 12th at the world championships. She captured her first Canadian crown last month on WinSport's sliding track.

McClelland looks to make splash

It's easy to see the draw for athletes from other sports to be interested in bobsleigh.

It's common for rugby players, football players and track athletes to make the transition to the sliding track. Swimming? Not so much. But DJ McClelland is proving it can be done.

The 28-year-old Calgary native is a member of Kaillie Humphries' four-man team competing in this weekend's Viessmann World Cup held at WinSport's sliding track. The foursome, which also includes Dan Dale and Joe Nemet, will be making their World Cup debut as a team – the first official race for Humphries piloting a sled full of men.

"We want to do well for Kaillie," said McClelland, who worked as part of the track crew for WinSport the past two years. "Kaillie has always had success, so we don't want to be holding her back. We've worked together so far as a team and tried to put it together. Any goals we've had, we've managed to hit so far. It's just continuing to work together and keep pushing it, getting better and gel."

McClelland tried most sports growing up, but found his niche in swimming. He competed up to the level of junior nationals, but knew that his talent would only take him so far.

He wound up on the bobsleigh track, competing at the provincial level for two seasons before



Photo courtesy of Leah Hennel, Calgary Herald
Kaillie Humphries' team, from left, Dan Dale, Joe Nemet and DJ McClelland pose for the camera on Monday at WinSport's Ice House in preparation for this weekend's World Cup races.

getting the call to the national bobsleigh team for this season.

"As much as I enjoyed swimming, when I did play football or lacrosse or rugby, I enjoyed the physicality of it," said McClelland. "It was never an option to play them long-term for a sport, but I also enjoyed the team aspect of it. Swimming was an individual sport, unless it was relays. It was nice to find something that is a team dynamic that suits my build

a bit better. I wasn't really built to be a swimmer, I kind of muscled my way through it."

McClelland actually fell short of the national team standard when it comes to the push test in WinSport's Ice House this past summer. The standard was 5.25 seconds, but he could only top out at 5.27. However, because they needed to fill the team, he earned his spot.

His end goal is still the 2018

Olympics and the road starts right here on his home track on Saturday at 2 p.m.

"For the most part, our coaches have fairly high expectations of us and we have high expectations of ourselves," he said. "They expect us to do well, they wouldn't have put us together if they didn't think we could compete. For us, it's just a matter going out and proving to them and us we belong there."

Last week's medallists

Gold: Sam Edney, Calgary, luge; Alex Gough, Calgary, luge; Ivanie Blondin, Ottawa, speed; Charles Hamelin, Saint-Julie, Que., short track speed skating; Phil Marquis, Quebec City, freestyle skiing moguls.

Silver: Alex Gough, Calgary, luge; Chloe Dufour-Lapointe, Montreal, freestyle skiing moguls; Charles Hamelin, Saint-Julie, Que., short track speed skating (2) Elisabeth Vathje, Calgary, skeleton; Marianne St-Gelais, Saint-Felicien, Que., short track speed skating.

Bronze: Tristan Walker, Cochrane/Justin Snith, Calgary, luge; Arianne Jones, Calgary, luge; Sam Edney, Calgary, luge.

Events at the Park

Ski and snowboard hill
Weekdays: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.
Weekends: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Markin MacPhail Centre
Friday-Sunday: Springbank Minor Hockey Association atom tournament. Games throughout the day at all arenas.

Public skating
Friday: Noon-1 p.m. and 3:30 to 4:45 p.m., Arena D (free admission due to World Cup bobsleigh/skeleton).

Saturday: 6:15-7:15 p.m., Arena D.
Sunday: 6:15-7:15 p.m., Arena D.

Sliding track

Friday: World Cup skeleton women's heats at noon and 2:15 p.m.; men's heats at 1 p.m. and 3:15 p.m. Awards to follow.

Friday: World Cup bobsleigh, men's 2-man, heats at 5:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

Saturday: World Cup bobsleigh, women's 2-man, heats at 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.; four-man bobsleigh, heats at 2 p.m. and 3:30 p.m.

CANADA'S SPORTS HALL OF FAME

Tuesday to Sunday: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.



Happy holidays!

On behalf of WinSport, happy holidays to all WinSport tenants, partners, supporters and patrons.

WinSport Weekly will return on Jan. 9.

Experts working magic on halfpipe

When it comes to WinSport's halfpipe, it's not a pipe dream to have a dream halfpipe.

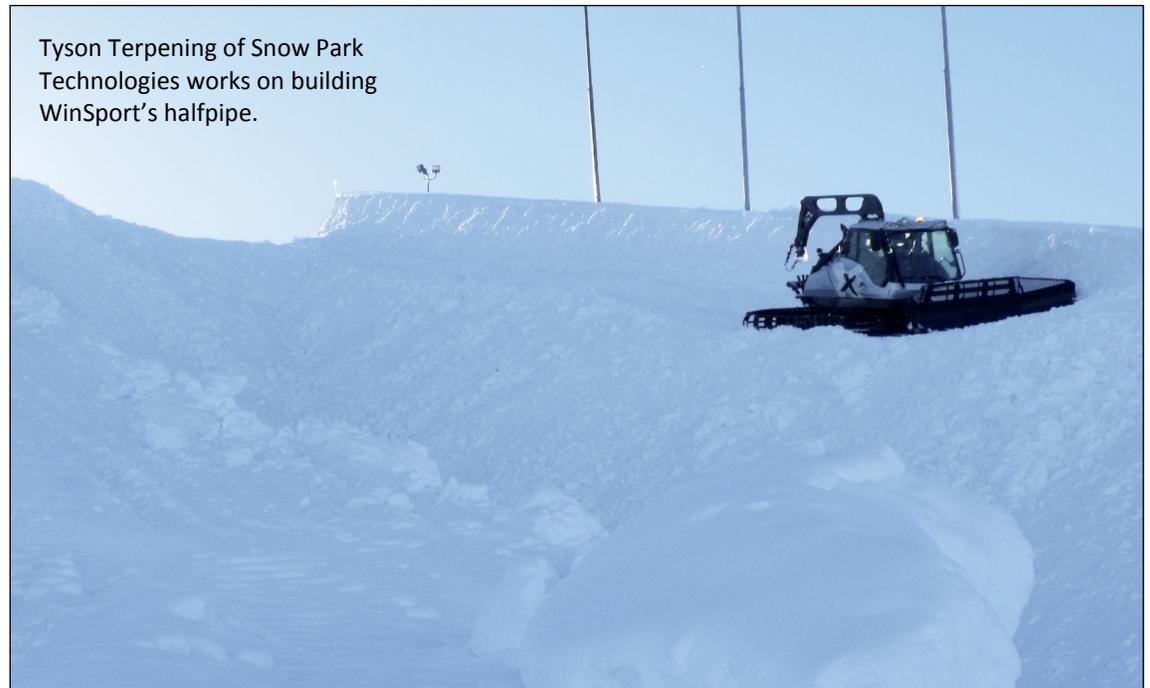
It's anticipated the Under Armour Halfpipe will open soon, and it's expected to be as good as it has ever been, thanks to the Canadian Freestyle Ski Association, Own the Podium, WinSport and ultimately Nevada-based Snow Park Technologies.

"Canadian Freestyle was looking for a training home for their halfpipe team, so they went to Own the Podium to see how they get funding to help build a quality pipe. And they picked WinSport as the base," said WinSport's director of venues, Mike Tanner.

"Own the Podium is paying for Snow Park Technologies to do the initial build and maintain the pipe through training camps and competitions throughout the winter."

Snow Park Technologies is the name in halfpipe building. They are responsible for the X-Games build and other parks and pipes throughout North America and the world.

"The Canadian team likes the Snow Park Technologies pipes whenever they go to competitions, and the best competitions are always built by Snow Park Technologies," said Tanner. "They



Tyson Terpening of Snow Park Technologies works on building WinSport's halfpipe.

want to have that same environment training, so that's why they come here."

Andrew Erath and Tyson Terpening are in Calgary for two weeks building the pipe. They have operated cats in several U.S. states and Australia, and have pipe building down to a science.

It takes two weeks of around-the-clock snowmaking to get enough snow for the pipe, followed by 200 man hours in the cat, lots of measuring and cutting.

"The other part of Snow Park Technologies coming here is to train our operators and work with our staff to train them so they can do this going forward," said Tanner. "A big part of this program is working cooperatively with them."

The national team will arrive in Calgary on Jan. 4 and have a 10-day training camp leading into the X-Games, which are scheduled for Jan. 22-25 in Aspen, Colo. They are looking forward to a quality pipe.

"I'm really excited for our Calgary camp," national team halfpipe skier (and Calgary native) Roz Groenewoud said during a recent media conference call. "We spent very little time training in Canada over the last year, so it's such an awesome opportunity to train in Canada."

"We have a great halfpipe in Calgary. And hopefully there are more skiers below the national team that have access to a halfpipe so that the legacy of halfpipe skiing in Canada remains strong."

Parade to medal podium for Canadian luge team

It was a historic effort for the Canadian luge team at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park during this past weekend's World Cup stop in Calgary.

Canadians slid to a total of six medals, including two in the new event of Sprint Cup.

Leading the charge was Calgary's Sam Edney, who became the first Canadian luger to win World Cup gold at WinSport's sliding track, and the first Canadian male luger to win a medal at the track since Tyler Seitz won bronze in 2002. Seitz is now WinSport's track manager.

Alex Gough won silver in the women's event, with teammate Ariane Jones grabbing bronze. The tandem of Justin Snith and Tristan Walker won bronze in the doubles race. As part of WinSport's Sarah Burke Performance Awards, Edney, Gough and Jones each received \$5,000 for reach the podium, while the doubles team of Walker and Snith shared \$5,000.

Gough followed up with gold in the Sprint Cup, while Edney took bronze.



Sam Edney (#17) is flanked by silver medalist Felix Loch of Germany, left, American Chris Mazdzer and artist Richard Flamenco (front).

Edney wore a special helmet designed by Richard Flemenco as part of the Helmets for Heroes campaign.

The 19-year-old has spent most of his life at the Alberta Children's Hospital, where he receives treatment for the symptoms of Epidermolysis Bullosa, an incurable disease which causes painful blistering of the skin.

"This is a surreal moment," said Edney. "There is a sense of calmness today I guess with this helmet."

Curling sweeps its way onto WinSport campus

WinSport has long been associated with the Olympic rings, but curling rings are taking centre stage at WinSport's Canada Olympic Park in the coming months.

Canada's Sports Hall of Fame, which is located on the west side of the park, launched its new curling

skills in hands-on and virtual curling interactive games. The exhibit, which runs until June, chronicles the past 125 years of curling in Canada.

The exhibit is open in time to celebrate Calgary's hosting of the upcoming

2015 WFG Continental Cup, which takes place at WinSport's Markin

MacPhail Centre from Jan. 8-11, and the Tim Horton's Brier on Feb. 28 to March 8 at the Saddledome.

The Continental Cup, which will be the first major curling event hosted at WinSport, features some of this country's top curlers competing for Team Canada in a battle against Team Europe. The event begins Jan. 8 with women's, men's and mixed doubles draws.

Tickets can be purchased by clicking [here](#)!



exhibit late last month. The new exhibit, entitled Sweeping to Success: Stories of Canadian Curling, features the Tankard Trophy, which is awarded yearly to the winner of the Brier, along with historical artifacts showing the evolution of curling rocks and brooms.

In addition to memorabilia from some of Canada's top curlers – including several of the Hall's Honoured Members – the exhibit allows the public to test their