



**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, January 30, 2015



## Our athletes up close

Kevin Hill  
Snowboarding

The 28-year-old native of Vernon, B.C., is one of Canada's top snowboard cross racers. He made his World Cup debut in 2009 and just missed qualifying for the 2010 Olympics. He was the top Canadian in men's snowboard cross at the 2014 Games, finishing eighth.

# Henrich soars to new heights

**F**ollowing the 2014 Winter Olympics, Taylor Henrich had a new attitude.

The Calgary ski jumper wanted to shrug off the pressure of competition, have fun and enjoy the roller-coaster of emotion that comes with sport.

Henrich is definitely on an emotional high of her coaster ride this week, after becoming the first Canadian to win a medal at a women's World Cup ski jumping event, thanks to a third-place finish last Sunday in Oberstdorf, Germany.



**Taylor Henrich**

"It was a surreal moment," Henrich said in an email from Austria, where she is competing this weekend. "It didn't feel real until I was standing on the podium. After I had landed, I still felt nervous. I wasn't sure if I had done enough for that jump, but when I saw that I was in the lead with three jumpers to go I could only stay positive no matter what the end result was."

The 19-year-old, who trains at WinSport's ski jumping centre, led Friday's qualifying and was fifth after Saturday's jumps. She had a 93-metre jump on Saturday and topped that with a 95.5-metre jump on Sunday.

"I was a bit nervous during the hours leading up to the competition, because I wasn't sure how I would do," she said. "Knowing that Sunday's



Calgary's Taylor Henrich has been jumping at WinSport since she first learned about the sport at summer camp at the age of seven.

Photo: Canadian Olympic Committee

competition was being covered by the media back home, it definitely added to the pressure. However, I just wanted to ignore the distractions around me and focus on the job that I was there to do."

Henrich is already in the history books as the first woman to participate in ski jumping at the Olympic level, having worn bib

No. 1 at the 2012 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Innsbruck. She finished fifth at those games, before finishing 13 at the Sochi Games, as women's ski jumping made its Olympic Games debut.

"I look back at the Sochi Games and leading up to that moment I see it as a learning curve, on how to make sure I bring my best to every competition," she said. "In

Sochi, I felt as if I competed to the best of my abilities at that time and was satisfied with my finish. What I took away from Sochi was to not get too stressed about any competition and to just have fun with your sport.

"I love ski jumping and I want to enjoy the sport and its roller-coaster of the good times and the hard times."

## EXCEL

### Last week's top-5 finishes

- Tuesday**  
**IPC Biathlon World Championships**  
(at Cable, Wis.)  
5. Mark Arendz, Huntsville, P.E.I., 12.5km standing
- Sunday**  
**Para-Nordic World Championships**  
(at Cable, Wis.)  
1. Brian McKeever, Canmore/Erik Carleton, Calgary, men's 20-km cross-country; 4. Chris Klebl, Canmore, men's 15-km sit-ski
- X Games**  
(at Aspen, Colo.)  
1. Simon d'Artois, Whistler, B.C., men's superpipe

- Luge World Cup**  
(at Winterberg, Germany)  
5. Alex Gough, Calgary, women
- Saturday**  
**FIS World Snowboard Championships**  
(at Kreischberg, Germany)  
2. Darcy Sharpe, Comox, B.C., men's Big Air
- X Games**  
(at Aspen, Colo.)  
**Men's slopestyle:** 3. Alex Bellemare, Saint-Boniface, Que.  
**Women's slopestyle:** 3. Dara Howell, Huntsville, Ont.; 5. Nikki Blackall, Barrie, Ont.

- Friday**  
**Skeleton World Cup**  
(at St. Moritz, Switzerland)  
**Women:** 2. Elisabeth Vathje, Calgary; 4. Lanette Prediger, Calgary
- X Games**  
(at Aspen, Colo.)  
**Men's Big Air Snowboarding:** 1. Mark McMorris, Regina; 2. Maxence Parrot, Bromont, Que.,  
**Snowboard cross:** 1. Kevin Hill, Vernon, B.C., men; 2. Dominique Maltais, Petite-Riviere-St-Francois, Que., women; 3. Alex Massie, Barrie, Ont., adaptive; 4. John Leslie, Arnprior, Ont., adaptive.

### 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**  
**WinSport Hockey Canada League**  
**Sunday:** Molson-Coors all-star game, 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Arena A.  
**Ice Cross**  
**Sunday:** Red Bull Crashed Ice Qualifier, 4-6 p.m., Arena A.  
**CSSHL Showcase**  
**Friday-Sunday:** Canadian
- Sport School Hockey League tournament, featuring SISEC, Edge, POE and Sturgeon. Joan Snyder Arena (B), Arena C, visit-calgary.com Arena (D)  
**Public Skating**  
**Sunday:** 6:15 p.m. to 7:15 p.m., visitcalgary.com Arena (Arena D)
- CANADA'S SPORTS HALL OF FAME**  
**Tuesday to Sunday:** 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

## Technical trainer takes instructors to next level

**W**inSport is home to some of the top ski and snowboard instructors in Canada.

How did we get so lucky you might ask? Well, it may have something to do with the strong training and morale that continues to build collaboratively among the group.

This season, Andrew McCraney was brought in as the new Snow School Technical Trainer to work weekly with the instructors rather than seasonally.

This change has brought in-

creased technical knowledge and skill, as well as an overall increase in awareness in operations.

This is the first collaboration between WinSport's Active Lives instructors, who oversee the lessons and snow schools, and the Academy instructors, who offer advanced programs for young athletes looking to excel.

"We have found that meeting weekly shows how much we all want to work together as a team to share ideas," said Andrew

Lunt, Manager of Snow School and Mountain Bike School. "We have seen the highest attendance ever for in-season training and it has helped to boost morale."

### DISCOVER

In addition to the added sense of teamwork, the training has helped build personal development among instructors, helping them set goals and reach their potential.

Overall, this has led to an improved snow school experience for WinSport guests.

Although McCraney has taught

globally for more than 20 years, he has always come back to Alberta where he now leads the technical training.

"We have increased our toolbox and have seen it pay off in what we offer our students," said Lunt.

"It has been a great collaborative experience for our instructors and it shows in their level of skill and knowledge."

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For more information on WinSport lessons or programs visit [www.winsport.ca](http://www.winsport.ca) or click [here!](#)

## WinSport plays critical role in team's X Games success

**C**anadian athletes were a force to be reckoned with this past weekend at the 2015 Winter X Games in Aspen, Colo., including an historic gold.

WinSport is proud to have played a key role in many of their finishes, thanks to a pre-Games training camp held at Canada Olympic Park.

Of the seven medals Canadians won at the X Games, three were from freestyle athletes who

### EXCEL

trained at WinSport during the camp leading up

to the Games. The other four came from the Canadian snowboard team.

"Having this kind of world-class facility in Canada is such a significant asset to Canadian halfpipe skiing and snowboarding, not only in regards to high-performance programs, but in sport development areas as well," said national halfpipe coach Trennon Paynter.

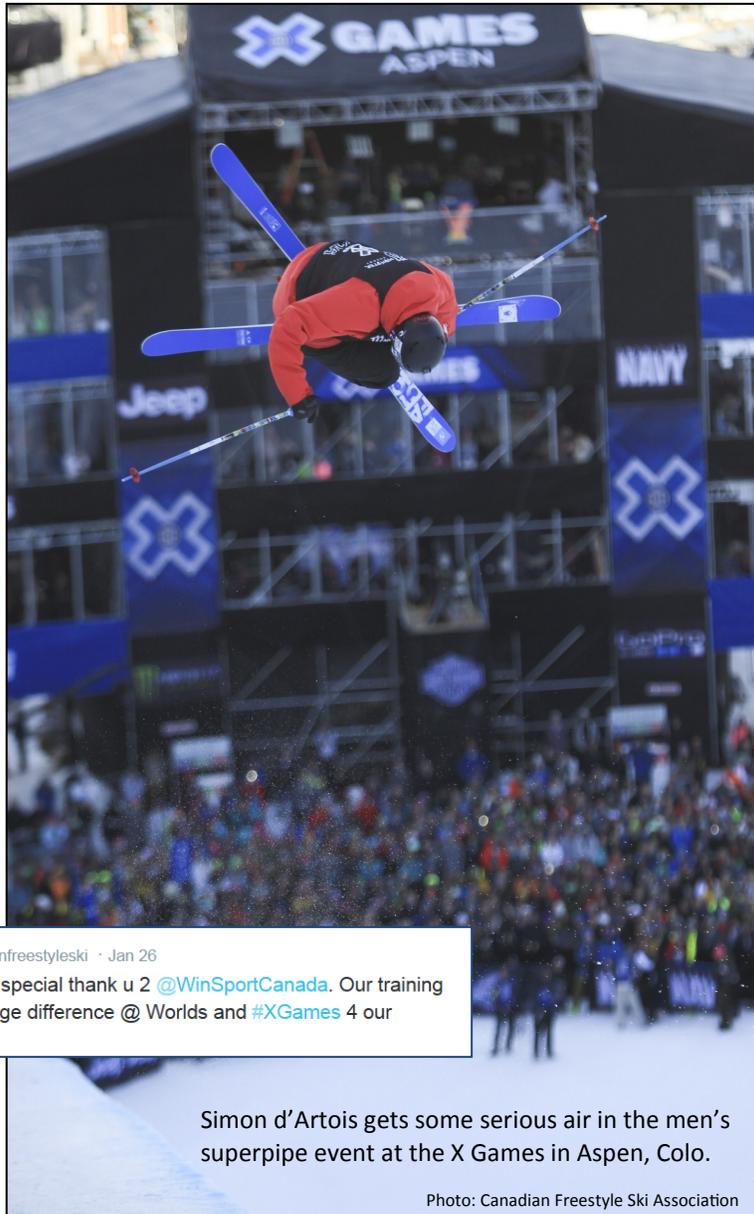
Simon d'Artois led the charge with a gold medal in the men's

ski superpipe, becoming the first ever Canadian gold medallist in event at the X Games.

Calgary's Noah Bowman, a graduate of the WinSport Academy program, was sixth in the eight-man final, while Mike Riddle of Sherwood Park was eighth.

Kevin Rolland of France, who took silver, also trained in the WinSport halfpipe.

In slopestyle, Alex Bellemare of Saint-Boniface, Que., and Dara Howell of Huntsville, Ont., captured bronze medals in the men's and women's events, respectively. Both trained on WinSport



Simon d'Artois gets some serious air in the men's superpipe event at the X Games in Aspen, Colo.

Photo: Canadian Freestyle Ski Association

**Canadian Freestyle** @canfreestyleski · Jan 26  
We'd like 2 send out a special thank u 2 @WinSportCanada. Our training camp there made a huge difference @ Worlds and #XGames 4 our athletes

jumps and airbag.

"The camp we had in Calgary was an instrumental part of our success at X Games this year," said Paynter. "In fact, it was the best overall training camp setup that we have ever had. The pipe was absolutely perfect during our time there, and the support that we received from all the WinSport staff was absolutely outstanding."

In snowboarding, Mark McMor-

ris of Regina and Maxence Parrot of Bromont, Que., took the top two steps of the podium in the Big Air final, while Kevin Hill of Vernon, B.C., was tops in men's snowboard cross.

Dominique Maltais of Petite-Riviere-St-François, Que., was a silver medallist in women's snowboard cross, with Alex Massie of Barrie, Ont., winning a bronze in the adaptive snowboard X.

### Freestyle team gets sponsorship help from Dragon's Den

**C**anada's national freestyle ski team found a unique approach to sponsorship and reeled in \$2 million, thanks to CBC's Dragon's Den.

Seven members of the national team, including halfpipe skier Mike Riddle, slopestyle skier Dara Howell, aerialist Travis Gerrits and moguls skiers Mikael Kingsbury, Maxime, Chloe and Justine Dufour-Lapointe, along with CFSA CEO Bruce Robinson, went before the Dragons on Wednesday's episode, looking for a four-year sponsorship commitment.

While all the Dragons were sympathetic toward the team's lack of funding, Difference Capital CEO Michael Wekerle jumped at the opportunity and locked up a four-year deal. The show was taped last April, with the deal signed in December.

To watch the episode, click [here](#).

### Red Bull Crashed Ice takes to the rink for world qualifier

**W**inSport is the site of the 2015 Red Bull Crashed Ice Calgary qualifier, which takes place Sunday at the Markin MacPhail Centre (4-6 p.m.)

More than 200 competitors are expected to take to the ice, with the 15 fastest men and the fastest woman earning an all-expenses paid trip to Edmonton to the world championship finals. A total of 50 walk-up spots are available on a first-come, first-served basis, beginning at 3 p.m. on Sunday.

Participants must be over the age of 18 and must supply your own helmet, pads and skates.

Click [here](#) for more info.