**PARA U14 Chair Report**

**(2017-2018 Season)**

**Kristen Ehringer, U14 Age Chair**

**U14 Derby** –

The Derby took place February 24th - 25th at Seven Springs Mountain Resort. The field consisted of a total 85 racers, 44 boys and 41 girls.

The event consisted three runs of Slalom on Saturday and three runs of GS on Sunday. Friday’s Super G training was cancelled due to heavy rain.

Saturday evening consisted of a banquet and a raffle. Sunday afternoon consisted of a pizza party followed by the awards ceremony.

As both the age chair and a coach I had the opportunity to spend the majority of my time on the slope. I was very impressed with the behavior and sportsmanship exhibited by all the racers, especially given the weather and difficult conditions. Congratulations to all the racers who attended. I found that the quality/level of the field to be representative of what I would expect at a state championship event.

I personally would like to thank Charles Donnellan, TJ Greenier, Jim DiBaise, and the entire staff of Seven Spring for all their hard work pulling off this event. Special thanks to Rachel Greenier for acting as the derby chair and all her help assisting with the awards ceremony. I would also like to thank all the coaches and parents for all their help, both on and off the hill.

The PARA State Team consisted of 6 boys and 5 girls.

The following racers qualified for the PARA State Team based on their results at the derby.

Boys

1. Case Robbins BMRC

2. Benjamin Cook BMRC

3. James Dougherty BMRC

4. Michael Finnerty JFRT

5. Lange Gaspar LMRT

6. Bryce Gonder SSRC

Girls

1. Rhiannon Lubaszewski SSRC

2. Marcella Altman SRRC

3. Julia Bennett SRRC

4. Summer Saifee WPRC

5. Allison Mitchell SRRC

**U14 Eastern Championships** –

The USSA U14 Eastern Championship was held at Whiteface Mountain on March 15th through 18th. Eleven racers represented PARA. Lee Gonder, Erik Backlund, and Dave Gonder attended as PARA coaches.

The event consisted of a training day, a skills quest day, SG, slalom and giant slalom races.

Congratulations to Rhiannon Lubaszewski (20th SL, 30th GS, 25th SG) and Case Robbins (15th SL, 35th GS, 43rd SG) for qualifying for CAN-AM Championships. Marcella Altman finished 20th in SG. Benjamin Cook finished 30th in GS and 33rd in SG.

Girls

Rhiannon Lubaszewski SSRC

Marcella Altman SRRC

Julia Bennett SRRC

Allison Mitchell SRRC

Molly Burns JFRT

Boys

Case Robbins BMRC

Benjamin Cook BMRC

James Dougherty BMRC

Michael Finnerty JFRT

Lange Gaspar LMRT

Bryce Gonder SSRC

**CAN-AM Championships** –

CAN-AM Championships were held at Sugarloaf on March 29th through April 1st. The event consisted of Super G, skills evaluation, Giant Slalom, and Slalom. Case Robbins and Rhiannon Lubaszewski qualified based on their performance at U14 Eastern Championships.

Rhiannon Lubaszewski finished 46th in SL, and 30th in the Super G. Case Robbins came in 22nd in the GS, 32nd in SL, and 59th in the Super G. Congratulation to all three boys on a great post season!

**Francis Piche Invitational** –

The Francis Piche Invitational was held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 14th through the 18th. This year’s PARA’s quota consisted of a total of 40 racers. This year’s quota was allocated as 11 U12 boys, 11 U12 girls, 9 U14 boys and 9 U14 girls.

PARA sent a total of 18 U14 racers. The event consisted of an optional slalom training day on Wednesday, an optional GS training day on Thursday, a training day on Friday, GS race on Saturday and an optional slalom race on Sunday.

Tatum Treherne finished 1st in GS and 2nd in SL. Torin Pottinger finished 10th in SL. Natan Driker finished 17th in GS and

Special thanks to Jim Pottinger and all the coaches for their efforts communicated with and organizing such a large group of racers and families.

Girls

Tatum Treherne SRRC

Grayson Honig WPRC

Carolyn Mole WPRC

Marisa Tomaru BMRC

Haley Hessinger HRVC

Jaden Cook PASEF

Megan Diller SRRC

Deirdre Flaherty WPRC

Boys

Noah Rosenthal JFRT

Torin Pottinger WPRC

Lucca Correia PASEF

Jack Pope EMSC

Natan Driker JFRT

Matthew Feigenberg BMRC

Dylan Jay PASEF

Connor Murphy JFRT

Shayan Gupta BMRC

**Eastern Region U14 NWAC GS & SL Project** –

The National Winter Activity Center hosted the U14 SL and GS project on February 19th and 20th. PARA had a quota of 10 athletes. The top male and female from each regional received and invitation plus 2 discretionary spot.

The project goals were:

1. To bring select U14 athlete from NYSSRA, TSASRA, PARA, NJARA, & SARA, for a GS & SL Tactics and skills Project.
2. Provide training environments that support tactics, technique, and skill development.
3. Promote Fun and Pace through Duals – Paneled GS and Tall Pole SL.
4. Create an opportunity for building confidence and camaraderie amongst regional athletes.

The following athletes attended: Jaden Cook, Molly Burns, Grayson Honig, Allison Mitchell, Tatum Treherne, Jack Pope, Case Robbins, Torin Pottinger, Bryce Gonder, and Michael Finnerty.