**PARA U14/12 Chair Report**

**(2012-2013 Season)**

**U14 OTC Camp –**

The U14 Eastern Region U.S. Olympic Training Center Camp was held September 7-9 at the Olympic Training Center Lake Placid. Luke Midock of Ski Roundtop was invited to attend the dryland camp. The camp included physical assessments of the athletes, overall conditioning and a focus on fun.

**U14 Elite Fundamentals Camp** –

The Elite Fundamental Camp was held December 15-17 at Sunday River. The camp’s focus was to introduce the USST fundamentals curriculum, as developed and utilized by USSA national teams, to Eastern’s elite U14 racers. The curriculum addresses the core technical skills that are needed to ultimately build a solid foundation for tactical success.

 As this camp’s primary focus is on our athlete’s fundamental skills there is a limited focus on gate-oriented progressions.

PARA sent the following U14 Racers:

Gisele Thompson Blue Mt.

Luke Midock Ski Roundtop

John Wagner Deep Creek

Kinjal Ruecker Liberty

**U14 Speed Event** –

The one day speed event was held January 10th at Bristol Mountain, New York. The primary focus of the camp was to be the development of fundamental skills with bumps, jumps and terrain changes. The day was to be spent going through speed progressions in a controlled environment.

A total of 41 slots were given to NY, PARA and SARA for the day. PARA’s quota was 15. PARA was able to send fourteen racers. One racer was unable to attend due to an illness just prior to the event.

**U14 Elite Speed Camp –**

The U14 Elite Speed Camp was held February 7-8 at Sunday River, Maine. Luke Midock of Roundtop, based upon his coach’s recommendation, was awarded a discretionary slot.

**Derby** –

The Derby took place March 1st, 2nd & 3rd at Roundtop Ski Area. The field consisted of 100 racers, 53 boys and 47 girls.

The weather cooperated this year allowing for two days of racing. Course conditions were good, with the help of the course maintenance crew.

The event was held on the slope Exhibition.

Saturday evening consisted of a banquet and a raffle.

In addition to the two days of racing the Skills Quest was held on Friday. Approximately 91 racers (up from last year) attended the event. Six skills were tested.

Again, 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. Congratulations to all the racers who attended.

As always, I personally would like to thank Bruce Bedell, Bill Filling, Tracey Beinhaur and the entire Ski Roundtop Race staff for all their hard work pulling off this event. Special thanks to Sandy Stefanic for all her hard work over the past few years. Sandy “retired” as the derby chair after this year’s event. Thanks to the lead sponsor The Lowell Whiteman School. Lastly I would like to thank all the coaches and parents for all their help, both on and off the hill.

PARA State Team

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

Boys Skills Quest Result Overall

1. Luke Midock SRRC 1

2. Mitchell Pan Whitetail 16

3. Matthew Sadler**\*** Whitetail 48

4. Ramesh Shrestha Blue Mt. 3

5. Sean McCoy WPRC 16

6. Conor Newman Elk 10

7. Jackson Mansfield Blue Mt. 3

**\***Matthew declined his slot for the Junior Championship and was replaced by first alternate Sean Carden from Elk Mt.

Girls

1. Kinjal Rueker LM 7

2. Cassie Lieblein SRRC 3

3. Caroline Smith WPRC 7

4. Anna Claire Miller Whitetail 15

5. Grace Schierwagen Blue Mt. 16

6. Gisele Thompson BMRT 1

7. Claire Turner Elk Mt. 37

**U14 Junior Championships** –

The Alpine U14 Eastern Regional Junior Championship was held at Sunday River on March 15th through 17th. PARA was awarded 14 slots. Fourteen racers represented PARA. Bruce Newman from Elk Mountain and Jeff Beinhauer from Roundtop attended as PARA coaches.

The event consisted of a Skills Day in addition to slalom and giant slalom races.

The top PARA female racers were Kinjal Ruecker from Liberty and Gisele Thompson from Blue Montian, while the top male was Luke Midock, also from Roundtop. Luke finished 29th overall, while Kinjal finished 24th and Gisele 26th.

All three racers qualified for the CanAm event which was held at Mont-Tremblant Canada March 29th to the 31st. Kinjal finished 20th in the slalom and 55th in the GS, Gisele finished 41st in the slalom and 46th in GS, while Luke finished 27th in the slalom, but did not finish in the GS.

**Francis Piche Invitational** –

The Francis Piche Invitational was held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 14th through the 17th. This year’s event excluding former J3 racers, therefore PARA’s quota of 36 racers were given to U14/12 racers. This year’s quota was allocated as 10 U12 boys, 10 U12 girls, 8 U14 boys and 8 U14 girls.

PARA sent a total of 36 U14/12 racers, along with coaches. The event consisted of an optional training day on Thursday, a training day, GS race and an optional slalom race on Sunday.

**Discussion Point –**

Need to establish a scoring method for the derby to ensure that all athletes receive points in a fair, equitable manner for qualification for post season events.