

**PARA U12 Chair Report
(2016-2017 Season)
Tim Brown, U12 Age Chair**

U12 Derby –

Due to snow conditions at Tussey Mountain, the Derby was moved to Roundtop. The event took place February 24th-February 26th. The field consisted of a total 82 racers, 51 boys and 31 girls.

Due to the threat of bad weather on Saturday, the three runs of GS were held on Friday. The Skills Quest was moved to Saturday, followed by three runs of SL on Sunday.

Saturday evening consisted of a banquet and a raffle. Sunday afternoon consisted of an 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. 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.

This was a very trying event, so I would personally would like to thank Jeff Brock, Eric Updegrave, the Tussey Mountain Alpine Race Club for all their hard work pulling off this event despite the needed venue change. Special thanks goes out to Diann Roffe, the entire Roundtop Race Club and the management at Roundtop. Without them “stepping up” this event never could have taken place. Special thanks to Jeff Brock for acting as the derby chair and all his help assisting with the awards ceremony. Thanks to Joe Bender and Sandy Stefanic for all their help with timing and calculations. I would also like to thank all the coaches and parents for all their help, both on and off the hill. **This event was definitely a team effort.**

The PARA State Team consisted of 10 boys and 10 girls.

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

Boys

- | | |
|-----------------------|----------|
| 1. James Dougherty | Blue Mt. |
| 2. Adam Pettrignani | Blue Mt. |
| 3. Tucker Ellis | Blue Mt. |
| 4. Tyler Superczynski | LMRT |
| 5. Lane Krosse | SRRC |
| 6. Torin Pottinger | WPRC |
| 7. Charlie Holden | LMRT |
| 8. Louis Friedrich | PASEF |

- | | |
|---------------------|------|
| 9. Grady Hill | LMRT |
| 10. Cameron Mehallo | JFBB |

Girls

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------|
| 1. Rhiannon Lubaszewski | SRRC |
| 2. Abigail Miller | SRRC |
| 3. Brianne Allegra | HVRC |
| 4. Marisa Tomaru | BMRA |
| 5. Kate Yadush | BMRA |
| 6. Bela Patel | WTSEF |
| 7. Deirdre Flaherty | WPRC |
| 8. Jaden Cook | PASEF |
| 9. Riley Baughman | HVRC |
| 10. Michaela Klus | BMRA |

Francis Piche Invitational –

The Francis Piche Invitational was held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 15th through the 19th. This year's PARA's quota again consisted of a total of 36 racers. This year's quota was allocated as 10 U12 boys, 10 U12 girls, 8 U14 boys and 8 U14 girls. Two additional quota slots were awarded to PARA just prior to the event.

PARA sent a total of 21 U12 racers, consisting of the 20 state team members. Adam Petrignani was unable to attend, but was replaced by Will Kogelmann of TMART at the last minute. Gabby Stabach of Elk filled one of the additional slots awarded PARA. The event consisted of two optional training days on Wednesday and Thursday, a training day on Friday, GS race on Saturday and a slalom race on Sunday.

Jim Pottinger (WPRC), Sarah Johnston (JFBB) and Jason Farda (Camelback) attended as the PARA coaches. Special thanks to all the coaches for their efforts communicating with and organizing such a large group of racers and families.

Future Stars Festival –

NYSSRA held a two day event at Gore Mountain, NY. Originally to be held at Windham Mountain the venue was changed due to a possible lack of snow. The event, which was skills based, was open to a total of 100 athletes from NYSSRA, SARA, Tri-State, NJSRA and PARA. SARA did not field a team, so additional slots then went to the other state organizations. Prior to the event PARA had commitments from 19 racers. However, several racers withdrew at the last minute due to various reasons, so approximately 13 racers actually attended the event. Sarah Johnston (JKBB) and Ben Shirk (SRRC) attended as PARA coaches.

The quota was open to all U12 racers. Racers were offered slots based on overall derby results.

I received very positive feedback about this event from both parents and coaches.

I am not sure if it was the timing of the event (late season) or it being a new and unfamiliar event, but I struggled somewhat in filling our quota. As the U12 age chair I would like the input from the PARA board as to how we can better promote the event.