

**PARA U12 Chair Report  
(2017-2018 Season)  
Tim Brown, U12 Age Chair**

**U12 Derby –**

The event took place March 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The field consisted of a total 89 racers, 46 boys and 43 girls.

Due to limited snow and the need to preserve the race hill the Skills Quest event was not held.

Saturday evening consisted of a banquet and a raffle, held at the mountain. 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 Updegrove, and the Tussey Mountain Alpine Race Club for all their hard work pulling off this event despite the snow conditions and the threat of needing to move the venue for a second year. Special thanks to Jeff Brock for acting as the derby chair for the past four years. 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. Special thanks to John McGregor for being the TD.

The PARA State Team consisted of 11 boys and 11 girls.

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

**Boys**

1. Tyler Supercynski	LMRT
2. Van Glantz	TMART
3. Louis Friedrich	PASEF
4. Finn Robbins	BMR
5. Wyatt Rodgers	WPRC
6. Cameron Mehallo	JFRT
7. Erik Pilisek	BMR
8. James Rost	WPRC
9. Jackson Miller	SRRC
10. Andrei Nazlymov	LMRT
11. Bolling Shirk	SRRC

## Girls

1. Kate Yadush	BMR
2. Rebecca Mize	SRRC
3. Isabella Altman	SRRC
4. Sienna Correia	PASEF
5. Alyssa Sarkisov	WTSEF
6. Juliet Studness	BMR
7. Madalyn Persing	BMR
8. Jamie Hodgkinson	WTSEF
9. Brooke Persing	BMR
10. Paige Barnes	EMSC
11. Emma Persing	BMR

I am sorry to hear that TMART will not be bidding for the U12 Derby again. I do, however, understand the reasons. Hosting a derby is no small task, especially for a club the size of TMART. Jeff, Eric, and the mountain management did a tremendous job the last 4 years. The Tussey Derby was one of the finest. Certainly, one of the best that I have had the opportunity to be involved with over my many years. I sincerely appreciate all TMART'S work. Thank you, Jeff and Eric, for all your efforts.

### **Francis Piche Invitational –**

The Francis Piche Invitational was held at Gunstock Ski Area on March 14<sup>th</sup> through the 18<sup>th</sup>. 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 22 U12 racers, consisting of the 22 state team members. Bolling Shirk of SRRC was unable to attend but was replaced by Jacob Orenstein of LMRT. 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.

Special thanks to Jim Pottinger and 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. The event, which was skills based, was open to a total of 100 athletes from NYSSRA, SARA, Tri-State, NJSRA and PARA. Prior to the event PARA had commitments from 18 racers. Stacy Speese (SRRC) and James Ostman (SRRC) attended as PARA coaches.

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

I received, for the most part, positive feedback the last two years about this event from both parents and racers. However, fielding a team was a challenge for various reasons including

the event date (late season). Only 6 of the 22 state team racers attended the camp. As the U12 age chair I would like the input from the PARA board as to how we can better promote the event and the method of selecting a team to attend.