

Derek Wintermans is selected to the Canadian National Team and ten of BC's best selected to National Development Group

Vancouver BC, June 10, 2008

The Canadian Snowboard Federation announced Derek Wintermans (Port Coquitlam) will be joining the National Snowboard Cross team for the upcoming 2009 season.

With his strong and consistent performances this last season and his commitment and dedication to the sport Wintermans got his much deserved opportunity to make it to the next level. Wintermans came off the 2008 season with some of his career highlights including winning the Canadian National Championships.

"This last season Derek made a lot of changes to the way he approached the larger events, which has paid off big for him" said Chris Nakonechny BC Team Head Coach. "I am very excited to see him get this opportunity, and I think he is moving in the right direction to realize his goal of representing Canada at the Olympic Games".

When asked about his selection Wintermans says, "It feels like the next logical step to help me realize my goals and aspirations. I am very proud and honored to now be part of the Canadian National Team and I feel that the BC Team has helped turn me into a National Team caliber athlete".

While Wintermans is moving up to the National Team there are four other BC SBX Team athletes that are looking to make the move in the near future. These athletes continue to be recognized by the CSF by being added to the Canadian Development Group. Matt Tunnicliffe (Vancouver), Pat Tunnicliffe (Vancouver), Adam Livingstone (Whistler) and Jesse McDonald (Nakusp) will be the representing BC athletes on the Development Group.

"There is a lot of snowboard cross talent in BC and it is great to see our athletes developing as some of the countries top competitors. The BC program will continue to help these young athletes develop and achieve their goals" said Chris Nakonechny.

In addition to the BC SBX Team having a strong showing at a National level, the BC Halfpipe Team is also making an impact with six BC athletes selected to the Halfpipe National Development Group. The BC Halfpipe athletes include Neil Connolly (Whistler), Charmaine Ironside (Vancouver), Ryan Rausch (Kimberley), Dan Raymond (Whistler), Helen Schettini (Whistler) and Katie Tsuyuki (Squamish).

When asked about the numbers of selected athletes; Andrew George, BCSA Athlete Program Director states, "With having 6 of our 13 Halfpipe athletes on the National Development Group it not only shows the growth of our riders but also of our program. More than ever it's important at this point in time to ensure that we continue to provide the highest level of support to all of our athletes while meeting the specific needs of the individuals at the upper end of the spectrum."

Currently there are thirteen athletes on the Provincial SBX Team and an additional thirteen athletes on the Provincial Halfpipe Team. The athletes compete in FIS events ranging from BCSA Provincial Events to International World Cups. The teams train in three areas in the province including Big White, Whistler and Cypress Mountain.

The British Columbia Snowboard Association (BCSA) is a non-profit sport organization, which is the governing body of snowboarding within the Province. The BCSA is an organization that brings youth into a safe and supported environment while competing in a sport they love. Up and coming National Team riders and future pro athletes are bred through the BCSA and its programs.

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