

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BC Snowboard Athlete Derek Wintermans qualifies in the first place position at the last World Cup Snowboard-Cross event of the year

Vancouver BC, March 21 2008 – Facing some of the best Snowboard-Cross athletes in the World, Derek Wintermans (Port-Coquitlam) qualifies in the number one position for the last scheduled stop of the 2007-08 World Cup Tour in Valmalenco, Italy.

Battling extreme gusts of wind, Wintermans tried to time his start during the first round of time trial qualifications in order to avoid getting blown off track. Wintermans strategy showed promise as after the first round of qualifications Wintermans sat in 9th position. However with qualifications for SBX being based on the best one of two time trials Wintermans returned to the top of the course confident and motivated. With the start of Wintermans second qualification heat, he once again managed to time his start between the overpowering gusts of wind. Wintermans states, “I used my opportunity and threw down the best run that I could”. Wintermans’ “best run” turned out to be the best run of the entire event. Posting a time 1:00:13 and claiming the fastest qualifying time of the event. When asked about the realization of being the fastest Wintermans reflects, “I knew it as soon as I finished the race, then when I saw my ranking on the leader board, it was pretty surreal”.

During the Finals, the wind continued and Wintermans decided on a strategy of “drafting” fellow competitors. “Drafting” is when several competitors align themselves closely behind each other in order to reduce wind resistance. During the first 4-man heat, Wintermans strategy paid off when he managed to draft behind the leading competitors and successfully pulled ahead during an angled-roller feature thus resulting in Wintermans winning the first round and advancing to the second.

During the second round of head to head racing, Wintermans pulled out of the start gate directly behind Germany’s David Speiser with the intention of incorporating the drafting strategy a second time. However as the two athletes entered a roller section the German athlete got bucked and with Wintermans directly behind him the athletes ended up tangled and not proceeding on to the third round of races. When asked about the head to head races Wintermans felt, “I believe I could have won, it was a little frustrating qualifying first but then going out in the second round”.

With Wintermans final result of 9th place overall, not only was he the top-Canadian men’s finisher but also managed to tie his personal World Cup best.

Wintermans next stop is the Canadian National Championships, scheduled for April 5th at Cypress Mountain, Vancouver.

Currently there are seventeen athletes on the Provincial SBX Team. The athletes compete in FIS events ranging from BCSA Provincial Events to International World Cup races. The team trains 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 with in 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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