



ARCTIC WINTER GAMES
WHITEHORSE 2012

UWU

news

The Sports Edition

Whitehorse Rapids Speed Skating Club recently held a training camp with coach Maggie Qi, who coaches the national team at the oval in Calgary.
Photo credit: Heinz Ter Voert



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**WHITEHORSE
DAILY STAR**

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Meet the Chef-de-Mission

Head of Team Yukon serves as link between the host society and teams, coaches and athletes, and the AWG International Committee

by AISHA MONTGOMERY

Don't be fooled by her title. As the Chef-de-Mission of Team Yukon about the only thing Tracey Bilsky won't be doing during the upcoming Games is the actual cooking of meals for her athletes. Since 2010, Bilsky has been focused primarily on her role as Chef-de-Mission of Team Yukon.

It's no small job overseeing 340 of Yukon's finest young athletes. But Bilsky makes this difficult task seem so easy with her positive outlook and obvious love of athleticism. A born and raised Yukoner herself, Bilsky's love of sports started early as a figure skater in Faro.

As current executive director of Sport Yukon, the role of Chef-de-Mission is a natural fit for Bilsky, but she considers her role as Chef an honour, and not a role she takes for granted. "Essentially the role is that you are the head of the team," said Bilsky, "You're the link between the host society and

“My hope for every athlete comes down to experience, ...if they feel good about their experience, then I think that is more important than winning.”

As Chef in her second Arctic Winter Games, Tracey Bilsky sees this Games as presenting awesome opportunities for Team Yukon's younger athletes, "You know what I am most excited about this time is that there are so many new participants. For a large majority of our team this is their first Arctic Winter Games. And so I think what we'll see from that is just a lot of newness and excitement and innocence and energy."

But she also has her eyes on some hopeful veterans to the Games. "I also get excited about the athletes that have trained hard and are going to perform well. Like Holly Bull and Fabian Brook from cross-country skiing. We've got a couple of figure skaters Rachel Pettitt and Bryn Hoffman who will show well. We have Rachel Kinvig, she's a dog musher. This will be Kinvig's third Games and she's never lost. She's always won gold. She carried the flag in the closing ceremonies at the last Games."

For Bilsky, however, it's about having the right attitude. Whether a new, upcoming athlete or a top performer, she looks forward to seeing all her athletes enjoy their moment of a competition. "My hope for every athlete comes down to experience, their experience within it...when it comes down to it if they've learned something about themselves, if they feel good about their experience, then I think that is more important than winning to me, as a Chef."

all the team, such as the coaches and athletes. And we're also the link between the AWG International Committee."

"It's a fun job because you have to make sure everything is looked after like the food and accommodation and all the logistics that have to go on to make sure the athletes are well cared for and have a great experience."

And, Bilsky has gathered up some reliable help along the way. "I have an assistant, Peter Cassidy, and for AWG I'm allowed 10 other people who are considered my mission staff. They are all given sports. We all have our role."



Photo credit: Heinz Ter Voert

Arctic Sports Kicks High

How the Games of the North lured me from the South by JESSE DEVOST

I was first exposed to arctic sports during the lush and rainy green winters of my childhood on Hornby Island. Through some quirk of electromagnetic broadcast, CBC North was the only channel we picked up on our ramshackle TV antenna at the time.

Fascinated by the feats of strength and agility from this exotic, northern land (and a little cabin feverish) my sister and I would dangle small objects from my bunk bed and mildly injure ourselves trying to kick them up through the rain clouds, hoping that maybe they would break through and let in the sun. It was a lot of fun.

This kind of situation, I'm now realizing, is probably how a lot of the arctic sports originated (well, perhaps not in the Gulf Islands or with physics defying TV reception, but you get my idea...)

About 30-odd years later (which equates to a few days ago), I'm in Whitehorse chatting with Josh Carr. Josh looks like one of those guys who could be the star athlete in just about any field of play but he has chosen arctic sports as his passion. As coach of

Yukon's team as well as a competitor in the upcoming Arctic Winter Games, his enthusiasm for the sport is infectious.

"I love it because it's not against any one person - it's more against yourself. There's a lot of sharing of tips amongst competitors and it's a super friendly environment. At the same time it's really difficult and you end up using muscle groups you never thought you had."

Remembering my childhood exploits, I ask him: "what would a beginner like me experience if I gave it a try?"

"You would probably find it pretty tough," Josh comments. "It's hard to get the jumping techniques correct for starters but once you learn - and there's a lot of little things to know, you'll get better and have a lot of fun."

These sports are extremely popular in the arctic communities, Josh tells me. There are events happening all winter across the North, but the biggest event for Arctic Sports is at the Arctic Winter Games.

"It's kind of like our Olympics - the games will draw the top

athletes and everyone will get to see the best of the sport at these games - it's really exciting for all of our athletes," says Josh.

A lot of the sports have been played at potlatches for generations - it was a place where many people could get together, share their games and compare how they did them.

Some athletes focus on a few sports but Josh does all of them. He will be competing for the all-around athlete's title as well as in the individual events.

"The appeal is that it is something different - you can see most other sports just about any time but this is something special - the cultural aspect is strong and these sports have been played for hundreds of years - people watch and they wonder if they could do it because many of the sports are actually very simple in concept."

Over the course of our conversation, I'm getting really keen to try something.

"What do you need to do some of these sports?" I ask. "The great thing is that they are really simple and you can improvise if you need to," Josh



“I love it because it's not against any one person - it's more against yourself.”

tells me. We've used a ball of socks tied to the ceiling once for high kicking and with some of the jumping sports, you don't need any equipment at all." Back at my office after we chat, I'm realizing that what I really want to do is step away from my computer and actually try something - while a button up shirt and khakis aren't the ideal garb for the two foot high kick or the arm-pull, why not bust out a little kneel jump in my cubicle? The Kneel Jump, where the athlete (or office worker) kneels on the ground and then jumps to

their feet as far forward as possible has a very practical origin. If ice fishers kneeling down on the ice heard a crack they would jump up and as far out of the way as possible.

In my office, I cleared an optimistic amount of space in front of me in anticipation of sailing clear across my cubicle and into future Arctic Winter Games glory. On my knees and with the most concentration I'd mustered all day, I flung myself forward and was actually pretty surprised that I didn't crash headfirst into a filing cabinet.

My feet miraculously landed under me and there was no searing pain from my body. I had done it! I completed a successful kneel jump!

I traveled about the length of a stapler.

Feeling like I should stop while I'm ahead, I recalled Josh's invite to visit one of Team Yukon's practice sessions the following week. Perhaps I'll stop by and learn more than I ever would have accomplished in my bedroom as a kid or as a middle-aged office worker.

More than anything, I'm excited to see the best of the sport compete at the Arctic Winter Games. Get your tickets for Arctic Sports early. They are one of the most popular events in the games for good reason.

More information on Arctic Sports can be found at: awg2012.org/en/Sports/ArcticSports.aspx

Get your Games Tickets

All Games tickets (Sport, Culture & Ceremonies) are available at Sportslife in the Hougén Centre, 3rd & Main Street. Cultural tickets are also available at The Yukon Arts Centre. Out-of-town? Call the Games office at 867.393.2012 for tickets.

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES WHITEHORSE 2012

AWG Office: 308 Wood Street, Whitehorse, Yukon, ph. 867.393.2012

On behalf of Mayor and Council, I'd like to welcome all athletes, coaches and visitors to Whitehorse for the 2012 Arctic Winter Games. We wish you all the best in your competitions and hope you enjoy your time in our city.

Sincerely,
Bev Buckway
Mayor
City of Whitehorse

yukon energy keeping tradition in play

ARCTIC AND DENE SPORTS presented by YUKON ENERGY

Give a Cheer for the Home Team!

Get ready to make some noise: Team Yukon brings hockey to home ice

by KAREN KEELEY

Hockey is Canada's game. It's played on frozen ponds, rutted gravelled streets, beat-up asphalt and in community rinks across the country. As spectators, we eagerly anticipate the puck drop and then it begins. The smack of sticks, the quick acceleration followed by twisting and turning of bodies as solid blades skim the ice, a snap wrist-pass up through the middle, and the whistle blows!

We wonder: Was it a goal? A penalty? Out of bounds? That same wonderment will happen during 2012 Arctic Winter Games when young and talented hockey athletes chase their own dreams on a quest for hockey gold.

President of the Yukon Amateur Hockey Association and Sport co-chair Walter Brennan is as excited as the players and coaches making up Team Yukon. Brennan tells us

that the Yukon Amateur Hockey Association, as the sport governing body, is responsible for Team Yukon.

"As a committee, we worked hand in hand with Whitehorse Minor Hockey last summer to select the coaches," Brennan said. "Jim Stephens is the AWG co-ordinator and has spearheaded the work to date. With his leadership, we've selected the coaches for all

three teams, established the criteria for player selection through a fair evaluation of their skills, and once the trials were over, the final teams with their alternates were chosen at the end of January. The alternates are there in case of injury or illness, but of course we hope that doesn't happen."

Team Yukon Hockey's Midget Men (age 17 and younger), Bantam (age 14 and under), and Junior

Women (under age 19), along with their coaches, believe in the game of hockey and its importance to sport development for Canada's youth across the North.

Brennan outlined the roster for the Midgets this year. The team features strong goaltending from Patrick Soprovich and Nigel Sinclair Eckardt. Offensively, Riley Pettitt will be a key player, as well as Mike Hare, Veteran third-year Midgets Brad Koprosky and Michael Skookum will lead defence. Coaches Jay Glass and Kirk Gale previously coached the 2010 Canada Winter Games team.

The Midget Men's team is hoping to repeat its 2006 gold medal



Photo credit: LOUIS BOUCHARD, Junior Women's Coach

Yukon's Junior Women engaged in the play during a game in 2011.



Photo credit: BARRY BLISNER, Bantam Coach

Yukon Bantam Team celebrating their tournament victory in Summerland, BC. 2011.

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ARCTIC WINTER GAMES WHITEHORSE 2012

The staff and management of Standard Bus Contracting Yukon would like to wish one and all a true Yukon experience while competing in the 2012 Arctic Winter Games

performance when the games took place in Kenai, Alaska. "Our Midgets will be a very fast and skilled team, and should have a good chance of winning the gold," Brennan added. "We're excited for them, and their drive and energy to represent Yukon at the games in Whitehorse."

Bantam team coach Barry Blisner is ready too.

"There are probably six or seven guys who make up the core of our team," Blisner said. "We have second-year Bantam forward captain Dylan McQuaig, and assistant captains Alex Hanson and Kole Comin, who are not only great scorers, but exceptional leaders as well."

The Bantam's defence is led by second-year assistant captain Marcus McLeod, and first-year Bantams Jack Blisner and Nick Dobush. Coach Blisner is expecting strong play from all three if the team is to be successful. Goaltenders Josh Tetlich and Devon Troke will tag-team the net.

"Most of the players currently live in Whitehorse although Dylan McQuaig has ties to Haines Junction and Bodie Elias to Old Crow," Blisner said. "The fact we will all be staying together for a week presents some challenges in terms of preparation but overall, that is one of the aspects of the games the kids will always remember."

That, and the friendships made not only with each other but with

others arriving to give it their best at the 2012 Arctic Winter Games. But the games are also about sportsmanship, building mutual respect for each other as hockey players and individuals, and nurturing leadership skills that will bode well for these young players today, and into their future years, whether they continue to play hockey or not.

Fellow coach Jamie Cairns works with Blisner to prepare the Bantam team against tough competition.

"The Arctic Winter Games is a short tournament with only five or six games and then it's over," said Blisner. "First and foremost, Jamie and myself work with the players to have them stay focused, making sure they know what to expect in terms of intensity and level of play."

Blisner tells us it's very tough to judge the competition for any Arctic Winter Games tournament as they don't get a chance to see the competition beforehand. In past years, Alaska and Northern Alberta were strong, and Blisner expects that same level of intensity in Whitehorse again this year.

"But in reality, Nunavut or N.W.T. could be the teams to beat so we're looking at any team as a possible gold medal opponent," Blisner added. "To be successful we will need our core group of guys to be our best players, and to continue to play a physical game. We have several big players such

as Malachi LaVallee and Levi Johnson who play with intensity and can be difficult contenders. It will make for exciting hockey."

All of the coaches are hoping for gold medals but the ultimate goal is for the players to enjoy the experience as it may be their only chance to represent Yukon at their level of play. The added bonus is playing in front of their friends and family in Whitehorse.

"We want them to realize what to expect, give them the best to succeed and make a great challenge for the gold medal," Blisner concluded.

The Junior Women's team has a number of returning players who cut their teeth at the 2010 Arctic Winter Games and 2011 Canada Winter Games. The team is captained by Dana van Vliet from Haines Junction. Tamara Greek from Whitehorse is a strong contender, as are Marsh Lake's Jocelyn Wynnyk, and the Junction's Sierra Oakley along with Emilie Nugent and Lynsey Keaton from Whitehorse.

Coach Louis Bouchard expects for the Junior Women's team to be in the medal rounds. At the 2010 games held in Grand Prairie, Yukon's team took home a silver medal, the first medal ever for the Yukon's Junior Women's team. Twelve players from the 2010 team have returned this year.

"Team Alberta and Alaska are always the favorites having won

gold or silver every year except 2010 when Yukon beat Alaska 4-3 in the semis to sneak into the gold medal game," Bouchard said. "We lost 2-0 to Alberta but happily took home the silver."

The games are held biannually across Canada's North, bringing athletes, coaches, support personnel, volunteers and cultural ambassadors together to celebrate sport excellence. Hockey was one of the ten sports selected for the inaugural games in 1970 and it is still going strong.

For the 2012 Arctic Winter Games Hockey schedule go to awg2012.org/en/Sports.aspx for practice and game dates. Medal games begin on Thursday, March 8 with the gold medal games slated for Friday, March 9 for the Junior Women, and Saturday, March 10 for the Bantam and Midget men's teams.

Walter Brennan feels that all three teams making up Team Yukon for hockey will be strong contenders and he's hoping for home fans to have all three competing for gold despite strong competition from Alberta, Alaska, N.W.T. and Nunavut.

"I know Team Yukon will show up strong and give us excellent hockey," Brennan said. "Whitehorse fans of all ages will really have something to cheer about. Imagine, their kids playing on home ice. It doesn't get much better than that."

▼ Hockey is Canada's game. It's played on frozen ponds, rutted gravelled streets, beat-up asphalt and in community rinks across the country.

The smack of sticks, the quick acceleration followed by twisting and turning of bodies as solid blades skim the ice, a snap wrist-pass up through the middle, and the whistle blows!

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Table Tennis Deconstructed

Oh, table tennis, we hardly know you!

by BRIGITTE PARKER



So, you think you know everything about table tennis eh? Well, let us surprise you with a few interesting facts and myth busters and shine some light on this often maligned sport.

It's A Noun, It's A Verb, It's A Trademark!

Through the years, the term ping-pong has taken its place in our common vocabulary. As a noun, it refers to a game resembling tennis but played on a table with a different ball. As a verb, it explains a quick back and forth movement or the rapid transfer from one locale, job, etc. to another. More importantly, the term Ping Pong is a trademark held by Parker Brothers who marketed their new Ping Pong game in the 1890s as "indoor tennis". The game was named for the sound the ball makes hitting the paddle and the table. The Ping Pong game served as the basis for today's table tennis sport.

It's Not A Game, It's A Sport!

This is a popular myth because it is easy to start playing ping pong. It is common for beginners, with reasonable coordination, to immediately enjoy a match on their basement table. Often this level of play is mistaken for the whole sport of table tennis. Yet so much more can be done with a table tennis ball! Spins, power loops, chops, floats, smashes, drives, blocks and pushes. Check out the action during the AWG and gain an appreciation for the skills, techniques and strategies used by high-level table tennis athletes.

Some Assembly Required

Table tennis players assemble

their own paddles or rackets. They buy blades and handles complementing their style and glue the red and black rubbers onto the blades to assemble the racket. Serious players also buy special table tennis shoes that are light with flat rubber soles. This allows the athletes to move fast during play.

A Serious Workout

The lower players are to the table, the easier it is to return the ball. This means lots of squatting and crouching in front of the table tennis table. As a result, athletes develop large thigh and strong gluteal muscles. Players also acquire quick reflexes through practice. According to a local coach Zara Bachli, table tennis is also a mental game. She says, when two experienced players are well matched, strategies and tactics are used to tire or synch out the opponent. Oh and check this out: Jacki Bellinger and Lisa Lomas set a Guinness World Record in 1993 by hitting 175 balls between them in 60 seconds! Talk about reflexes!

Oozes Pop Culture Cool!

Table tennis is alive and well in pop culture. There are plenty of movies featuring table tennis. Who can forget the spectacular scenes in *Forrest Gump* when Forrest becomes an international table tennis star and tours China. In the last decade, there has been three movies specifically on table tennis: *Ping Pong* (2002 – Japan), *Ping Pong Playa* (2007 – USA) and *Balls of Fury* (2007 – USA). "Ping pong" sounds are sampled in about a dozen songs, including Beastie Boys' *5 Minute Rule* and Enrique Iglesias' *Do You Know?*, which is also known as "The Ping Pong



Photo credit: Yukon Government

Song". And of course, search "ping pong tricks" on YouTube and prepare to be amazed!

Wields Diplomatic Power

"Ping pong diplomacy" refers to an exchange of table tennis players between the USA and China in the 1970s. The event marked a thaw in US-China relations and paved the way for the first-ever presidential trip to China by American President Richard Nixon.

Has Olympic Caliber Game

Table tennis became a full medal Olympic sport in the 1988 Summer Olympics in Seoul. China, Sweden and South Korea are currently the world superpowers in international table tennis. Top players are endorsed by shoe and apparel companies just like other professional sports players. A modern table tennis match at the elite level lasts on average about 30 minutes with top players

able to smash the ball at speeds exceeding 100 miles per hour or to put up to 9,000 rpm spin on it too!

Voted Most Popular

Table tennis is the most popular racket sport in the world and ranked second overall in terms of participation. Over 10 million players compete in sanctioned tournaments each year.

Has A Quirky History

Originating from England, table tennis was initially an after-dinner parlour game played by the upper-class during the 1880s and 1890s. Then, the game was known as "Flim-Flam", "Wiff-Waff" and "Gossima" and was played on dining room tables divided by a row of books, using cigar box lids as rackets and champagne corks as balls. Oddly, table tennis was banned in the Soviet Union from 1930 to 1950 because it was believed to be harmful to the eyes.

Has Come A Long Way!

In the days when the sport was unregulated, all sorts of strange materials were used to create rackets. Early table tennis paddles were made of cork, cardboard, or wood covered with parchment, cloth, or leather. Stranger more innovative ideas included using thick sponge, pure wood, or sandpaper as paddle surfaces. Later, 'pimpled' rubber and lightweight balls became the norm. By the way, contrary to popular belief, table tennis balls are not hollow. They are slightly pressurized with a gas.

We hope you have gained a new appreciation for table tennis. Check out the local table tennis club by coming to open practices on Sundays from 1:30 to 3:30 pm at Whitehorse Elementary School and trying your hand at a little racket action. Adults and youth aged 8 and up are welcome. Join the club's Facebook page "Yukon Table Tennis".



Thank You

to the Security Team, for keeping us all safe!

Northwestel thanks everyone who played their part in the Whitehorse 2012 Arctic Winter Games!

From all of us at Northwestel



Ajunngigiarlutit

means **Good Luck** in Innuinaqtun - one of several languages spoken by our Northern peoples.

ATCO wishes Ajunngigiarlutit to all Arctic Winter Games athletes and participants.

ARCTIC WINTER GAMES
WHITEHORSE 2012

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ARCTIC WINTER GAMES
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TEAM YUKON

JRF Junior Female, JRM Junior Male, JVF Juvenile Female, JVM Juvenile Male, MF Midget Female, MM Midget Male, JRMX Junior Mixed, JVMX Juvenile Mixed, BM Bantam Male, IF Intermediate Female



Alpine Skiing

Mitchell Kaitlynn JRF
 Mitchell Tayler JRF
 Richardson Samantha JRF
 Boorse Lyndsey JVF
 Hawes Abby JVF
 Storey Josephine JVF
 Hawes Charlie JVM
 Henderson-Pekarik Marek JVM
 Schimer Sam JVM
Coach Yves Titley

Arctic Sports

Londero Luke
 Martin Foreste
 Rivard Anna
 Simon Duran
 Whalen Jesse
Coaches Teena Dickson, Josh Carr

Badminton

Jawannatum Montong JRF
 Djearam Afsal JRM
 Parker Casey JRM
 Chua Shermaine JVF
 Knickle Emily JVF
 Jensen Peter JVM
 Syed Mustafa JVM
Coach Ken Frankish

Basketball

Blanchette Jenna JRF
 Dickson Teah JRF
 Fortune Robyn JRF
 Kazemi Shakiba JRF
 Lane Mikaela JRF
 Mervyn Amanda JRF
 Nguyen Quynh JRF
 Prensolo Colleen JRF
 Roots Galena JRF
 Sam Jacy JRF
Coach Sarah Crane

Carino Christian JRM
 Hansen Joshua JRM
 Hanson Peter JRM
 Hermosa Bryan JRM
 Huggard Rowan JRM
 Jacobs Jake JRM
 New Gerard JRM
 Prensolo Brian JRM
 Stimson Soleil JRM
 Thomson Will JRM
Coach Tim Brady

Biathlon – Ski

Findlay Olivia JRF
 Reid Clara JRF
 Peters Ale JRM
 Rees Will JRM
 Moser Nadia JVF
 Sparks Tristan JVM
 Tokic Jakov JVM
Coaches Dennis Peters, Laurie Jacobsen

Biathlon – Snowshoe

Halliday Kieran JRM
 Rees Sam JRM
 Hoehn Erin JVF
 Reid Francis JVM
 Vincent-Brown Pelly JVM
Coach Jim Boyd

Cross Country Skiing

Bull Holly JRF
 Hynes Adrienne JRF
 Peters Kaite JRF
 Sagar Nahanni JRF
 Bray Trevor JRM
 Brook Fabian JRM
 Reid Rachel JRF
 Cambria Zoe JVF
 Painter Eliza JVF
 Heather Paul
 Thomson Heather JVF
 Deuling Marcus JVM
 Mclean Caelan JVM
 Seal Andrew JVM
 Brook Maggie MF
 Gee Alexis MF
 Hynes Natalie MF
 Schier Hannah MF
 Cash Simon MM
 Hogeboom-Burr Ian MM
 Kishchuck Michael MM
 Sagar Elias MM
Coaches Alain Masson, Amanda Deuling, Nick Stratis

Curling
 Horte Bailey JRF
 Meger Kelsey JRF
 Mohoney Kelly JRF
 Molloy Sian JRF
Coach Rhonda Horte
 Aho David JRM
 Burke Ryan JRM
 Hills Kurtis JRM
 Wallace Spencer JRM
Coach Wade Scoffin

Culture

Power Kate
 Vanderbyl Grayson
 Fraser Mairi
 Fraser Breagha
 Tittle Tessa
 Beatty Odessa
Manager Breanne Leschert

Dene Games

Blackjack Dustin
 Fox Doronn
 Tizya Charissa
 Brown Matthew
 Brown Britney
 Charlie-Tizya Percilla
 Eby Brent
 Johnson Jasmine
 Mayes Andria
 O'Brien Terrence
 Primozic Anthony
 Primozic Sarina
 Sembsmoen Taylor
 Vallevand Tayler
 Williams Tora-Lee
Coaches Jonah Caesar, Shirley Dawson

Dog Mushing

Kinvig Rachel JRMX
 Atmanspacher Kat JVMX
Coaches Stephan Atmanspacher, Darren Kinvig, Chaperone Leanne Kinvig

Figure Skating

Armstrong Kelcy JRF
 Austin Maya JRF
 Hoffman Bryn JRF
 Kitchen Marika JRF
 LeGrow Kristen JRF
 Peters Maria JRF
 Pettitt Rachel JRF
 Schneider Taylor JRF
Coaches Lori Austin, Michelle Gorczyca

Gymnastics
 Banks Megan JRF
 Coyne Reena JRF
 Peters Kendra JRF
 Venasse Caitlyn JRF
Coach Catherine O'Donovan

Hockey

Blanchard Natalja JRF
 Dewhurst Adrienne JRF
 Eby Linsey JRF
 Greek Tamara JRF
 Keaton Lynsey JRF
 Logan Madison JRF
 Merkel Tenesha JRF
 Nothstien Tshayla JRF
 Nugent Emilie JRF
 Oakley Sierra JRF
 Pitts Jolene JRF
 Sandulak Ashtyn JRF
 Spenner Chyanne JRF
 VanVliet Dana JRF
 VanVliet Savannah JRF
 WoodWalker Hannah JRF
 Wynnyk Jocelyn JRF
Coaches Louis Bouchard, Susan Roy, Natasha Dunnell
 Blisner Jack BM
 Comin Kale BM
 Elias Bodi BM
 Goodman Chance BM
 Hanson Alex BM
 Hope Tyson BM
 Johnson Levi BM
 Kazakoff Karter BM
 Kormendy Kadin BM
 Lavallee Malachi BM
 Marsh Caleb BM
 McClelland Ben BM
 McLeod Marcus BM
 McQuaig Dylan BM
 Nobush Nick BM
 Tetlichy Josh BM
 Troke Devon BM
Coaches Barry Blisner, Jamie Cairns
 Hope Tyrell MM
 Hare Mike MM
 McCarthy Matt MM
 Weins Tyler MM
 Pettitt Riley MM
 Gale Wyatt MM
 Morris Cole MM
 Arnold Mike MM
 Glass Tyson MM
 Skookum Mike MM
 Close Graeme MM
 Koprowsky Brad MM
 Moses Isaac MM
 Kulych Brayden MM
 Berube Craig MM
 Soprovich Patrick MM
 Sinclair Eckart Nigel MM
Coaches Jay Glass, Kirk Gale

Soccer
 Bramadat Avery JVF
 Janowicz Anna JVF
 Joe-Hudson Jamie JVF
 McLeisch Jamie JVF
 Milner Hannah JVF
 Parker Aimee JVF
 Ponsioen Mikaela JVF
 Wilson Teaghan JVF
 Wintemute Samantha JVF
Coach Arnold Headstrom
 Irish Brendan JVM
 Jensen Trygg JVM
 Lee Sam JVM
 Marks Allan JVM
 Muir Malcolm JVM
 Schroff Timber JVM
 Stacey Kieran JVM
 Torgerson Chris JVM
 van Randen Luka JVM
Coach Ed van Randen
 Burgis Samantha JRF
 Dorosz Emily JRF
 Galloway Camille JRF
 Kelly Jaylene JRF
 Lanigan Megan JRF
 Miller Carolyn JRF
 Milner Brittany JRF
 Paul Morgan JRF
 Wilson Emily JRF
Coach Charly Kelly
 Amirault Mike JRM
 Banks Travis JRM
 Khodakarami Ali JRM
 Korn Dominic JRM
 Olynyk Tristen JRM
 Rumlions Jonathan JRM
 Scoffin Andrew JRM
 Sealy Martin JRM
 Wintemute Mike JRM
Coach Derrick Lewis
 Bendera Nicole IF
 Copland Micah IF
 Enzenauer Avery IF
 Hudson Jesse IF
 Lindsey Claire IF
 Parker Ella IF
 Publicover Terri IF
 Rivard Odette IF
 Val Hanna IF
Coach River Walton

Snowboarding

Bellon Lara JRF
 Bouffard Francis JRM
 Grant Haylie JVF
 Jammnick Alidas JVM
 Schirmer Tim JVM
 Waddington Adam JVM
Coaches Katrina Couch, Gabriel Rivest

Snowshoeing

Burke-Forsyth Sara JRF
 Bradley Aidan JRM
 Roots Logan JRM
 Londero Kate JVF
 Rees Sophie JVF
 Bonar Sam JVM
 Tokic Tomas JVM
Coach Don White Chaperone Jeane Burke

Soccer

Bramadat Avery JVF
 Janowicz Anna JVF
 Joe-Hudson Jamie JVF
 McLeisch Jamie JVF
 Milner Hannah JVF
 Parker Aimee JVF
 Ponsioen Mikaela JVF
 Wilson Teaghan JVF
 Wintemute Samantha JVF
Coach Arnold Headstrom
 Irish Brendan JVM
 Jensen Trygg JVM
 Lee Sam JVM
 Marks Allan JVM
 Muir Malcolm JVM
 Schroff Timber JVM
 Stacey Kieran JVM
 Torgerson Chris JVM
 van Randen Luka JVM
Coach Ed van Randen
 Burgis Samantha JRF
 Dorosz Emily JRF
 Galloway Camille JRF
 Kelly Jaylene JRF
 Lanigan Megan JRF
 Miller Carolyn JRF
 Milner Brittany JRF
 Paul Morgan JRF
 Wilson Emily JRF
Coach Charly Kelly
 Amirault Mike JRM
 Banks Travis JRM
 Khodakarami Ali JRM
 Korn Dominic JRM
 Olynyk Tristen JRM
 Rumlions Jonathan JRM
 Scoffin Andrew JRM
 Sealy Martin JRM
 Wintemute Mike JRM
Coach Derrick Lewis
 Bendera Nicole IF
 Copland Micah IF
 Enzenauer Avery IF
 Hudson Jesse IF
 Lindsey Claire IF
 Parker Ella IF
 Publicover Terri IF
 Rivard Odette IF
 Val Hanna IF
Coach River Walton

Table Tennis
 Gullison Alysha JRF
 Musil Whitney JRF
 Zheng Alex JRM
 Rajab Abed JRM
 Janssen Grace-Anne JVF
 Syed Sana JVF
 Gonder Kyle JVM
 Idrees Ehsan JVM
Coaches Kevin Murphy, Zara Bachli

Table Tennis

Gullison Alysha JRF
 Musil Whitney JRF
 Zheng Alex JRM
 Rajab Abed JRM
 Janssen Grace-Anne JVF
 Syed Sana JVF
 Gonder Kyle JVM
 Idrees Ehsan JVM
Coaches Kevin Murphy, Zara Bachli

Volleyball

Baxter Corey JRF
 Brown Rowan JRF
 Greenway Courtney JRF
 Henney Samantha JRF
 New Erika JRF
 Nielsen Brooke JRF
 Palamar Kiana JRF
 Smeeton Kelsey JRF
 Smith Anna JRF
 Wallingham Patty JRF
Coach Natasha Bilodeau
 Bonnycastle Brady JRM
 Dragoman Justin JRM
 Gray Mason JRM
 Hunter Michael JRM
 Kedziora Charlie JRM
 Kedziora Henry JRM
 Mann Jeremy JRM
 Smith Robin JRM
 Spycher Albert JRM
 Tait Lowell JRM
Coach Shaun McLoughlin

Wrestling

Cleveland Kim JRF
 Leas Tanisha JRF
 Munroe Kelly JRF
 Broeckx Antoine JRM
 Charron-Ohagan Kieran JRM
 Dick Terry JRM
Coaches Mary Jane Allison, Bruce Ross

Wrestling

Cleveland Kim JRF
 Leas Tanisha JRF
 Munroe Kelly JRF
 Broeckx Antoine JRM
 Charron-Ohagan Kieran JRM
 Dick Terry JRM
Coaches Mary Jane Allison, Bruce Ross

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Tracey Bilsky – Chef de Mission
 Peter Cassidy – Asst Chef de Mission/Curling
 Anne Copland – Alpine Ski/Snowboard
 Pat Duncan – Hockey
 Megan Freese – Volleyball
 Leslie Gomm – Soccer
 Janet Horton – Biathlon Ski/Snowshoe
 Jenny Imbeau – Figure/Speed Skating
 Kate Olynyk – Basketball/Table Tennis
 Sunny Patch – Culture/Newsletter
 Tammi Sikorski – Gymnastics/Dog Mushing
 Bill Stonehouse – Badminton/Wrestling
 Linda Stratis – X-Country Ski/Snowshoe
 Cody Wilkinson – Arctic Sports/Dene Games

SPORTS SCHEDULE



X – Competition Day O – Weather/Alternative Day For detailed sport schedules, visit AWG2012.org

EVENT	VENUE	SUNDAY MARCH 4	MONDAY MARCH 5	TUESDAY MARCH 6	WEDNESDAY MARCH 7	THURSDAY MARCH 8	FRIDAY MARCH 9	SATURDAY MARCH 10
OPENING CEREMONIES	Canada Games Centre	6:00PM						
ALPINE SKIING	Mount Sima		X	X	X	O		
ARCTIC SPORTS	Vanier Catholic School		X	X	X	X	X	
BADMINTON	Porter Creek School		X	X	X	X	X	X
BASKETBALL	F.H. Collins School		X	X	X	X	X	X
BIATHLON – SKI	Grey Mountain		X	X	O	X	X	O
BIATHLON – SNOWSHOE	Grey Mountain		X	X	O	X	X	O
CROSS COUNTRY SKIING	Mount McIntyre		X	X	O	X	X	
CURLING	Curling Club, Mount McIntyre		X	X	X	X		
DENE GAMES	Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre		X	X	X	X	X	
DOG MUSHING	Mount Lorne		Maintenance	X	X	X	O	O
FIGURE SKATING	Canada Games Centre		X	X	X	X	X	
GYMNASTICS	Polarettes			X		X		
HOCKEY (ALL)	Canada Games Centre, Takhini Arena	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
INDOOR SOCCER	Canada Games Centre	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
SNOWBOARDING	Mount Sima		X	X	X	X	O	
SNOWSHOEING	Shipyards Park		X	O	X	O	X	
SPEED SKATING	Canada Games Centre		X	X	X	X	X	
TABLE TENNIS	Selkirk Elementary School		X	X	X	X	X	
VOLLEYBALL	Canada Games Centre		X	X	X	X	X	
WRESTLING	Yukon College		X		X	X		
CLOSING CEREMONIES	Canada Games Centre							6:00PM

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CANADA'S PAINT EXPERTS

Speed Skating

Both Team Yukon and Team Alaska have benefited from Maggie Qi's Whitehorse training camps
by GLENDA KOH

The speed skating family in Whitehorse is a close-knit one. It turns out it's a close one across the country, too.

Last year's fire at the Canada Games Centre destroyed all of the Whitehorse Rapids Speed Skating Club mats – essential safety equipment for any speed skating club. But in less than three months the club was able to raise over \$100,000 needed to replace them.

"It makes you feel really good to live in the North," said Laini Klassen, club president and sport chair for the 2012 Arctic Winter Games.

The local community was generous to the club. Donations came in from local companies, individuals, and the Yukon Government, which provided the lion's share of the funding.

Help came from unexpected places, too.

"We put the word out through Speed Skating Canada, and who stepped up first? Nunavut and Newfoundland, the smallest clubs in the country," Klassen said. As well, there was an unnamed individual from Vancouver, who donated the equivalent of five mats.

The club is hard at work preparing for the AWG. Recently, the club held a training camp with coach Maggie Qi, who coaches the national team at the oval in Calgary.

This was her third camp in Whitehorse and she continued to focus on the important skills and technique that are the foundation for speed skating. She has seen an improvement in the club since she was last here in November.

Her advice for the team going into the games is to focus on the fundamentals: "Don't forget the basics, even when you're racing."

Qi saw nearly twice as many skaters this time around. That's because nine skaters from Anchorage made the journey to Whitehorse to take advantage of Qi's expertise. In addition, there were several recreational masters skaters that joined the camp.

Although Team Alaska will benefit from the training camp, according to Klassen, the team to beat is NWT. Team NWT held its trials the last weekend in January and will be sending a full team to the 2012 AWG.

Team Yukon has its own notables to watch for, though. Heather Clarke is a 16-year-old Yukoner currently training at the Calgary Olympic Oval in the rigorous Oval Program and the National Sport School. She will compete for Team Yukon at the AWG.

The team has had some small setbacks. Three skaters are currently injured, though only one is a skating related injury. Coach Phil Hoffman is hopeful that they will be able to compete at the games. There will be 10 skaters represent-

“Don't forget the basics, even when you're racing.”

ing the territory, a few skaters shy of the full complement of 16.

Hoffman says the team will benefit from being on home ice. At last year's competition in Grand Prairie, the team had to adjust to the slightly smaller NHL-sized ice. The four metre difference in width between the NHL ice and the Olympic ice makes corners tighter, which is no small consideration when you're skimming along on 15-inch metal blades.

It's clear that Whitehorse is bound to benefit from the home ice advantage as well, with the opportunity to appreciate the sport's speed and grace. When asked what attracts young athletes to speed skating, Klassen sums up one more of speed skating's basic fundamentals: "It's just the love of skating. That's why they're here."



Photo credit: Heinz Ter Voert



Photo credit: Heinz Ter Voert

Whose Net is it?

Team Yukon will be bringing some serious power to the courts. Get out and cheer them on!
by SARA BERGQUIST



My friend Robin and I waited in line at the Canada Games Centre. We were deciding what to do for our usual lunch-hour workout when the cashier handed the family in front of us badminton racquets and a shuttle. We looked at each other and without a word, we followed their lead, rented a couple of racquets and headed to the Flexihall.

Neither of us had touched a racquet in years and we were pretty rusty at first, but some of our skills came back and there were a lot of laughs.

A few weeks later, we were able to interview Michael Muller (Sport Chair – Badminton for Team Yukon) and the team at their weekly practice.

As we entered the gym, we could hear the popping sound of racquets connecting with shuttles. Some badminton commentators

have described this sound as a combination of a player's technique, the type of shuttle and the tension of the racquet strings. If this is true, Team Yukon will be bringing some serious power to the courts.

Team Yukon is coached by Ken Frankish and Abbie Rotundi. Casey Parker, Afsal Djeram and Montong Javannatum will compete in Juniors and Peter Holm, Mustafa Syed, Emily Knickle and Sharmaine Chua will compete in Juveniles.

Athletes learn techniques at their weekly practices. They need to be able to use explosive motions as they jump and lunge for the shuttle. They also focus on cardio by participating in activities such as squash, soccer and snowshoeing. Players need cardio fitness so they can endure long games.

Our overall impression of the

badminton team is that they are a really welcoming and fun group of skilled athletes. Get out and cheer them on! You are sure to take in some exciting matches that will entertain and just might inspire you to get out and take up a sport you haven't tried in awhile.

The badminton segment of the Arctic Winter Games will take place at Porter Creek High School from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. daily until the finals. Each athlete will play 18 matches over four days and then the medal rounds. The entire competition will have over 300 matches (potentially over 1000 games).

If you are interested in getting involved with the sport in Yukon, the Yukon Badminton Association has members in Dawson City, Whitehorse, Golden Horn, Marsh Lake and Watson Lake.

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