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SPRUCE CITY SKATERS JUMP AHEAD!

Athletes train, test and compete to new standards



After a short Christmas holiday break, skaters were back on the ice with several goals in mind. To kick start 2012, Olivia Wankling, Sydnee Schlamp, Audyn Mettauer, Shaelynne Macaulay and Danielle Sidsworth all tested to higher levels in their respective disciplines at a test day hosted by the Prince George Figure Skating Club from Jan 20-22. "The pass rate was high and the skaters gave it their all", said Rory Allen, Director of Skating for the Club.

Shortly after testing, the athletes were ready to put their skills on display at the "Cariboots and Blades Competition" in Williams Lake from Feb 3-5. The annual event is an important regional meet that brings in several hundred skaters from Feb 3-5 every year. "The competition is important because many of our athletes haven't competed in this level since testing. The remainder of our athletes haven't competed in quite a few months, even up to a year in

some cases (due to injury). It was a tremendously positive learning experience and I am very proud of all of them. Its not easy moving up a level, and they held their heads high." Six athletes attended and five medals were brought home.

Another group of athletes will be competing at the Ogoopogo Freeskate Competition, held in Penticton from Feb 10-12. Shaelynne Macaulay will compete in Pre-Novice women, with some of the top ranked Pre-Novice Competitors in the province. Macaulay is looking for more competitive experience and is ready to launch her double axel for the second time in competition. "The jump is getting cleaner, we just need a little more strength on the landing. We're going for it for the points. Ultimately we want it clean for Sectionals (Provincials) in November", Allen said. Justin Hampole and Emma Bajestani are the two other competitors. Its a special event for them, as they are both testing their Juvenile competitive tests, as they compete. SCSC will then have five CompetitiveSkate athletes, up from last years four.

"The recent acquisition of the state of the art Dartfish (video analysis software) has given new confidence to our skaters. It allows them to make corrections quicker. It has proven to be particularly helpful for my skaters who are visual learners", Allen also commented.

Registration is ongoing for all programs. For more information, contact the Registrar: registrar@sprucecityskating.com or call 250.962.1993

