

2023-2024 Biathlon AGM Report

Registration

- 6 athletes registered
- 1 new Augustana biathlete joined the crew from Yellowknife
- 1 long time athlete (Allyson Thain) moved away for university. We all really enjoyed still getting to see her and cheer her on like a Viking on the race circuit!

Overview

- Junior Racers, CSC Biathletes and Augustana Biathletes continued to train throughout the summer, rollerskiing, running, shooting and dryland training. This base gave our biathletes heading to early trials races an excellent base which led to an excellent start to the season. Leigh ran the rollerski and running practices while Craig offered shooting practices throughout the summer
- Some biathletes attended time trials throughout the summer offered by Edmonton Nordic
- Biathlon season ended at the end of March after Nationals in Hinton, Ab. Older athletes saw a month of rest before they returned to training.
- Our biathlon team saw some incredible success this season

Coaching

- Shooting: Craig Ferguson was the lead coach, providing shooting sessions 2-3x/week. Due to his busy schedule, the days and times of shooting practices fluctuated, however other parents/coaches were able to step in to keep it as consistent as possible. Logan Read helped.
- Skiing: Leigh Heie was lead coach for the Junior Racers, Biathletes and Augustana skiers & biathletes. Practices were provided 3 or more days per week depending on the race schedule. Jason Wiess and Sarah Read helped when they were available which was very appreciated as our ski team grew both in numbers and diversity. Leigh & Craig worked hard to coordinate practices so skiers and biathletes could train together as much as possible. This really helped build and maintain our Vikings sense of team.

Non-Coaching Volunteers

- A huge thank you to Gary Snyder (maintenance director for biathlon) for ALWAYS making sure the targets were maintained flawlessly and the range was groomed to perfection every single practice - no matter what the weather
- Rob Heie attended every event as wax tech and made sure our skis were awesome and fast every time! Thank you SO much Rob!
- As always, thank you to our groomers for providing us with beautiful trails

Events

****Camrose Ski Club Junior Racer and Biathlon Team was represented at every single Alberta Cup and Calforex Cup, in addition to YOUTH OLYMPIC GAMES TRIALS for both XC and Biathlon, as well as WORLD YOUTH JUNIOR TRIALS for Biathlon and both XC and Biathlon Nationals. This is a HUGE accomplishment for our athletes, coaches and volunteer parents!!!**

- **July 2023:**
 - **Kaslo Camp** - 2 of our biathletes (Dawson Ferguson and Ava Heie) attended the Western Initiative camp in Kaslo, BC where they trained with athletes from various club from Western Canada.
 - **Nordiq Alberta Open Camp** - most of our biathletes attended the Nordiq Alberta Rollerski Camp that was held at Augustana in Camrose

- **November:**
 - **Youth Olympic Games Trials - YOG (Canmore)** - 2 Camrose Ski Club biathletes attended (Dawson Ferguson and Ava Heie). Dawson Ferguson qualified for the YOG in Korea!
 - **Shooting Stars Biathlon Camp (Canmore)** - 2 of our biathletes were invited to a 4 day skill development camp at the Canmore Nordic Centre as part of the Biathlon Ab Shooting Stars Team. Camrose athletes in attendance were: Dawson Ferguson, & Ava Heie
 - **Calforex Cup 1 (Canmore)**
- **December:**
 - **Calforex Cup 2 (Canmore)**
 - **Ski Like Ole Lapapalooza**
- **January:**
 - **World Youth Junior Biathlon Trials (moved from Val Cartier QC to Canmore Ab at the last minute due to lack of snow)** - 2 athletes attended (Dawson Ferguson and Ava Heie) where they had some excellent results and represented the Camrose Ski Club so well!
 - **Calforex Cup 3 (Grand Prairie) - CANCELLED** due to cold weather
- **February:**
 - **Calforex Cup 4 (Edmonton)** - cancelled due to lack of snow
- **March:**
 - **Calforex Cup 5 (CAMROSE)** - unfortunately moved to Canmore due to lack of snow, however Canmore was having a test event for the upcoming Biathlon World Cup, so Calforex 5 was moved to Canmore and athletes were able to race with once again many personal achievements and lots of growth seen over the course of the season
 - **Biathlon Nationals (Hinton, Ab)** - 4 of our biathletes attended Nationals in Hinton, Ab. These athletes travelled and stayed as a team. Coaches who attended were Craig Ferguson, Leigh Heie and Rob Heie. Thank you to our coaches and volunteer parents who made this amazing experience possible. 1 biathlete (Ava Heie brought home 2 silver medals), while another biathlete (Chloe Funnel) was paired with National Team Biathlete Adam Runnells for the Team Relay which was a very exciting experience not only for Chloe but our entire team (and for Adam Runnells!).

Additional Accomplishments

- 2 athletes were named to the Alberta Team at Nationals (Dawson Ferguson and Ava Heie)
- 3 athletes have been named to the Alberta Shooting Stars for the upcoming season: Congratulations to Dawson Ferguson, Ava Heie and Morgan Elaschuk for this awesome achievement! They will get to attend camps throughout the season with some of Alberta's top young Biathletes
- 1 athlete (Dawson Ferguson) was named to the Junior National Team for Biathlon Canada