



Adrian Monthony of P.E.I., third from left, prepares to pass a Quebec skater on his way to a gold medal in Campbellton. PHOTO SPECIAL TO THE GUARDIAN BY KEVIN SCOTT

ATLANTIC CHALLENGE

P.E.I. speed skaters grab eight medals

PEI Speed Skaters Race to Podium in Campbellton

November 26th, 2010, Charlottetown— Speed skaters from PEI grabbed eight medals, including three gold, at the recent Atlantic Challenge speed skating meet in Campbellton, New Brunswick.

The meet attracted a field of 83 short-track speed skaters representing nine clubs from across the Maritimes and Quebec and featured races to select New Brunswick's 2011 Canada Games short track team.

Island skaters were led by Jesse Francis, who took home gold in the top Division 1 after winning three of four distances in the division. In Division 2, Adrian Monthony nabbed the gold medal for PEI, his second of the new season. Kristen Binns also captured her second gold of the season with top honours in Division 5.

PEI club coach Randy Francis commented, "Our club took advantage of the Olympic-sized ice in Campbellton. That extra space on the track can make for more passing opportunities and for quick times and many of our skaters made the most of it this weekend."

PEI was represented by sixteen skaters, who posted a total of thirty-nine personal best times and established two new PEI records during the meet. Niall Burnett, 2009/10 Canadian Midget age class champion, eclipsed a seven year old PEI record in the 3,000 metre distance for the Juvenile age class. Andrew Binns established a new provincial standard for PeeWee boys in the 1,000 metre distance.

Other PEI medal winners included Rebecca MacLean, Eliana Monthony and Michael Trotter (silver) while Jared Vriends and Victoria Trotter took bronze medals.

Also representing PEI in Campbellton were Ellen Burnett, Michael Rogers, Thomas Trotter, Taylor Johnston, Magen Francis and Michaela MacLean.

PEI skaters now set their sights on Fredericton, where the Atlantic Canada's largest speed skating club will host the final Atlantic region meet of 2010 on December 4 and 5.

Speed Skate PEI operates several programs at the Charlottetown Civic Centre from October to March and still has openings in some groups for 2010/11. More information about speed skating can be found at www.speedskatepei.com.