



News Release

Matthews Qualifies for World Cup

Calgary, Alberta (Jan. 26, 2010) – Andrew Matthews has qualified for his first ever World Cup event. Matthews kicked off his season with a bang, placing 7th on Sunday, January 17, 2010 at the Canadian Open Snowboard Tour (COST) Slopestyle competition and thus meeting the Canada Snowboard criteria to compete in the Calgary World Cup Slopestyle.

Slopestyle is a new event in the World Cup circuit this year. Matthews will be a part of the first ever World Cup Slopestyle this week, from January 26-30. It will feature some of the best riders from around the globe. Slopestyle is the most popular freestyle discipline, where riders are judged on execution and overall impression of their tricks on a course of several jumps and jib features.

Matthews had a set back less than a week before the January 17th COST event, with his back seizing up during training. He spent the rest of the week attending several physiotherapy and chiropractic appointments in an effort to speed up his recovery. When his back was still a problem leading up to the competitions, Matthews made the tough decision to opt out of the two halfpipe competitions. However by Saturday, the rest, acupuncture, and adjustments paid off; his back was back. It had loosed up and he was able to test it out in training that day.

In the Slopestyle competition, Matthews dialed his first run of qualifiers, landing some of the biggest airs of the competition. This put him through to finals where the podium was up for grabs to anyone. However, with 9 of the 10 finalists set to qualify for the World Cup, Matthews decided to play it safe on his first run to clinch a spot. On his second run, Andrew went for it, nailed his first two tricks but fell on a backside 720.

After hearing his results and qualifying for the World Cup Matthews said, "I'm really happy that I was able to compete and ride as well as I did in the slopestyle. I was a bit nervous seeing as this was my first contest of the season, and that the stakes were pretty high! That being said, I was doing my tricks better than I've ever done. My confidence is really high and I'll be carrying that into the World Cup. I'm stoked to have the opportunity to represent the NWT and Canada at the World Cup!"

Matthews is an NWT high performance snowboarder training with the Whistler Valley Snowboard Club in Whistler, BC.

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