



News Release

NWT Coach Receives National Award

OTTAWA (June 16, 2010) – Biathlon Canada has presented the June Hooper Memorial Award (Builder of the Sport of Biathlon in Canada) to Pat Bobinski from Hay River. This award is presented annually to an individual(s) who has significantly contributed to the growth and development of the sport of Biathlon over many years with service of the quality, dedication and unstinting devotion exemplified by June Hooper.

Pat has been involved in the sport of Biathlon for the greater part of his life, at least 40 years or more. He participated as a biathlete in a number of Arctic Winter Games, but most of his biathlon involvement has been in the role of coach and contributor. He was instrumental in the development of the NWT Biathlon Association, and has been its president for most of its existence. Without Pat and his enthusiasm for the sport, it is doubtful that biathlon would still exist in the north. It most certainly would not be the thriving activity that we see today.

Without facilities, it would be impossible to conduct our sport. So, Pat set out to create the facilities. Pat set the standard for ski trails and biathlon ranges in the NWT. He not only created the ski trails that we now enjoy in Hay River, he still spends countless hours every season grooming and maintaining them, as he has for the past 35 years or so since they were established. He designed and built our biathlon range, and assisted in the planning and construction of the two other competition ranges in the north. The quality of our facilities is such that our national team coaches have brought their athletes north for early snow training.

The equipment required for biathlon is expensive. Pat has been active in fund raising to provide the rifles, knockdowns and other equipment needed. Athletes starting out in the sport have been known to borrow Pat's equipment when the clubs do not have sufficient supplies. Pat's personal biathlon rifle has won many honours in the hands of young athletes who have had the use of it in training and competition.

Over the course of his career, Pat has introduced biathlon to hundreds of youth. This year alone, Pat has visited at least 11 communities, and introduced the sport to nearly 200 youth and trained 38 volunteer coaches from smaller communities. He still plays an active role in coaching, and coached the NWT Team at this year's national championships, as he does in most years. Pat's athletes have won many medals at Arctic Winter Games. They have also have also won medals at Canada Games, Canadian Championships



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and World Championships. The most successful athlete he has developed is Brendan Green, who recently competed at the 2010 Olympics. Pat still works closely with Brendan, most recently coaching him to success at this year's Canadian championships. He has also involved Brendan in assisting up and coming biathletes in our programs.

Pat has been actively involved in every facet of biathlon, year in and year out, for most of his adult life. He is an extraordinary person. He is not only a world class coach; he also has enormous talent as a team builder, organizer and administrator.



Betsy Mawdsley accepting the award on behalf of Pat Bobinski

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