



VELOCITY

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February 2007

Jeff Christie named Athletes Representative for the International Luge Federation - Sports Commission

Jeff Christie may still be fractions of a seconds away from sliding to his first World Cup luge podium appearance, but his breakout season welcomed another honour that will allow him to help steer his sport internationally. Christie has been selected by the world's elite luge athletes to represent them on the International Luge Federation (FIL) - Sport Commission.

Every four years, several athletes are nominated by the FIL to run for the lone athlete position on the Commission. Each participating country is given one vote and the selected representative is based on those votes. As an athlete representative, the 24-year-old Christie is required to attend the Sport Commission, and the FIL Congress to weigh-in on issues and discussions surrounding the luge community.

"I am absolutely flattered to have been voted by my peers to represent them in this leadership role," said Christie, who has consistently slid his way near the top of the result lists on the World Cup circuit this season. "I look forward to working for all of the athletes and doing my best for them. I think it is really important, and beneficial, to have a Canadian voice at the table. Canadians are well respected worldwide and bring a lot of what is good in sport and expected at international competitions."

Fresh into his new role, Christie has already organized meetings with athletes from other nation's to open a discussion around what the athletes feel is important for the sport.

"My goal is to try to get athletes a lot more involved with where the sport is headed in the future around the world," said the Vancouver native. "I'm taking this position very seriously, and want to take the critical steps necessary to be sure to represent what the athletes clearly want, not just what I think they want."

This is a fitting end to a breakout season for the leader of the Canadian men's luge squad.

Building off the experience gained from his first trip to the Olympic Winter Games in 2006, Christie is now a legitimate podium contender each time he grabs the start handles for a World Cup race. Christie completed the World Cup season with four top-10 finishes in eight races, including a sixth-place finish on his home track in Calgary.

Christie joins Tim Farstad, executive director of the Canadian Luge Association, as the second Canuck on the FIL - Sport Commission. Farstad was named to the Commission in 2002.

"We're thrilled that Jeff's peers have nominated him to represent them as a member of the Sport Commission," said Farstad. "Jeff will now be able to participate in a number of influential discussions and provide an important voice for Canadian athletes which we believe is critical, especially as Canada gets set to host the 2010 Olympics in Vancouver."

The International Luge Federation's Sport Commission consists of 10 bodies made up of an athlete representative, coaches and luge executives. The role of the Commission is to discuss rules of the sport at international and Olympic competitions, along with race procedures and formats, and to continue to find ways to improve it around the world.

Congratulations Jeff!



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Junior lugers tackle the Olympic track in Torino

The 2007 Junior Luge World Championships in Torino, Italy, were nothing short of exciting for the Canadian team. Many of the athletes were facing the challenging Olympic track for the first time, which can be intimidating at the best of times, not to mention during the biggest competition of the season. It only makes their terrific results that much more impressive!

Coming together for the team competition, men's singles representative, Brendan Hauptman, of Kimberly, B.C., women's singles representative, Alex Gough, of Calgary, and double's team representatives, Cameron Gunn and David Adair, also of Calgary, conquered the Olympic track to finish in fourth-place, narrowly missing the podium by .09 seconds.

All the results show the depth of talent developing through the Canadian luge program, which bodes well for the future of luge in the country.

FULL RESULTS:

Team Event

- 4 – Brendan Hauptman
- Alex Gough
- Cameron Gunn
- David Adair

Women's Singles:

- 6 – Alex Gough
- 15 – Arianne Jones
- 23 – Andrea Petersen
- 24 – Denae Delcourt

Doubles:

DNF – Cameron Gunn and David Adair

Men's Singles:

- 13 – Brendan Hauptman
- 21 – Stephan Rath
- 26 – Tristan Walker

Bittersweet World Championships for Canadian Luge Team



The 2007 World Championships in Igls, Austria, were filled with mixed emotions for the Canadian Luge Team. Doubles tandem of Chris and Mike Moffat finally found the two competitive runs they have been looking for all season, but fell short of their goal to break into the top eight.

Jeff Christie achieved his best result at the tricky Austrian track, finishing 22nd, but after the strong season he has been having, the result was short of his expectations. Meaghan Simister

continued to battle it out with the best starters in the world, but struggled to maintain the pace through both runs, finishing the race in 18th-place. Regan Lauscher was noticeably absent, having to return home after sustaining a concussion following a crash in Altenberg, Germany.

FULL RESULTS:

Men's Singles:

- 22 – Jeff Christie
- 25 – Ian Cockerline
- 32 – Sam Edney
- 33 – Matt McMurray

Women's Singles:

- 18 – Meaghan Simister
- 24 – Alex Gough

Doubles:

- 12 – Chris/Mike Moffat

Congratulations to the 2007 overall silver medallists in the team competition



Left to Right: Chris and Mike Moffat – Doubles; Walter Corey – head coach; Jeff Christie – men's singles; Meaghan Simister – women's singles (missing: Regan Lauscher – women's singles)

The Canadian Luge Team is bringing home a silver medal for finishing second in the overall standings in the World Cup team competition, the culmination of a season-long battle against the world's best luge athletes in all disciplines.

The team consisting of Calgary brothers Chris and Mike Moffat, Meaghan Simister, of Regina, and Vancouver's Jeff Christie, finished

the season's final team event in fifth-place, a mere three one hundredths out of the bronze medal position. The fifth-place result on the Winterberg track in Germany was enough to keep Canada in second place in the overall standings.

The team competition underwent a few changes this season, moving to a relay format during the January 7, 2007, World Cup in Königssee, Germany. Every team consists of a doubles team, one female and one male, who each complete one run for a combined final time.

In an effort to make the event more exciting for the teams and spectators, the FIL introduced a relay-type system that had the athletes tagging off on a flag at the finish, which in turn opened the gate at the start for the next team member. Strategy comes into play as the coaches communicate over radio to make sure the next athlete is ready to go as soon as the gate opens.

Congratulations to all the team members who were a part of this fantastic result!



Do you have what it takes?

The Canadian Luge Association is always looking for new talent to join the team. Each new recruit will go through extensive testing, from physical fitness to learning starts in the Ice House. Do you think you have what it takes to be the next great luge athlete representing Canada? Take a look at what the CLA is looking for...

Testing:

- Road Luge - on wheels in the summer (winter recruitment involves on-ice luge)
- Ice House- learning how to do starts
- Physical testing - sprints, vertical jump, push-ups, sit-ups, pull-ups, flexibility, general strength
- Games

What we are looking for:

- Kids who are coachable
- Keen
- Have an interest in the sport as a whole
- General physical fitness overall
- Kids who aren't afraid to go fast

March recruitment camps have been cancelled due to track closures, so stay tuned for the summer recruitment schedule.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE CANADIAN LUGE ASSOCIATION

Saturday , March 31, 2007

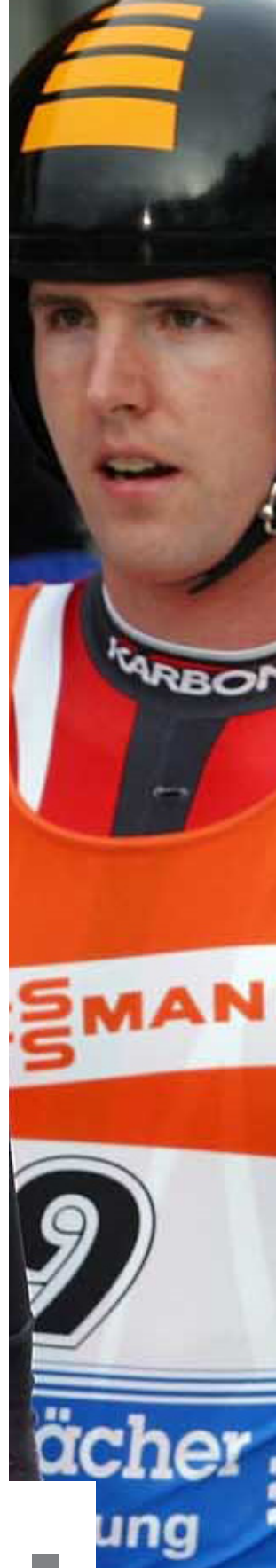
10 a.m. to noon

Four Points Sheraton

8220 Bowridge Crescent N.W.

Calgary, Alberta

The Annual General Meeting shall be convened according to the bylaws of the Canadian Luge Association



2007 Development luge trip to Latvia



Luge track in Sigulda, Latvia

Every year the development luge group takes a trip to Europe to gain valuable experience on a European track. This year's trip to Sigulda, Latvia, had the athletes spending two weeks training for a total of 343 runs down the track. They were also able to organize a race against local club sliders where Anna Burger-Martindale took first-place in the youth A girls category and Justin Snith grabbed the bronze medal in the junior men's category.

Athletes: Monica Gorham, Max Linnell, Matt Medrek, Andrew Pifko, Anna Burger-Martindale, Kimberley McRae, Justin Snith, Ben Austin

Coaches: Mikhail Zavialov, Mike Lane

Upcoming Events:

February 24-25: Junior National Championships

February 27: Third Annual Patch for Luge

March 3: Friends and Family sliding session - participation is free! Please contact Nicole Simon at 247-9884 ext. 29 to register

March 10: Canadian Championships

The Alberta Luge Association is proud to unveil their new website at www.albertaluge.com. With up-to-date information, this should be the stopping spot for all athletes, parents, and volunteers. There are many features we believe will be of assistance to our membership, including events and club pages. Please check it out!