

VELOCITY

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NATURAL TRACK LUGE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS COME TO ALBERTA

The Natural Track Luge World Championships will make its first-ever stop on North American ice at Canadian Tire Track in Grande Prairie, over the Family Day long weekend in February.

Slightly different from the artificial track variety of the sport, natural tracks resemble a winding mountain road about four metres wide, which is flooded with ice from top-to-bottom. Natural luge tracks don't contain the tubes and high-banked corners of their artificial cousins, meaning athletes use sleds with reins for additional steering control.

Spectators will be treated to the fastest sport on ice, with competitors employing a combination of lightning-fast coordination and keen wits to navigate the icy switchbacks at speeds up to 100 km/h.

Approximately 200 to 250 athletes, coaches and officials from 15 countries are expected to attend the event and compete in men's, women's and double's events.

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Peace Country Luge Association.



OUR COMMUNITY

ED MOFFAT NAMED LUGE RACE DIRECTOR FOR 2010 OLYMPICS

The Canadian Luge Association would like to congratulate Calgary's Ed Moffat on his appointment by VANOC, as volunteer Race Director - Luge for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games.

We are excited to have Ed on the track with us in 2010. His knowledge and experience will be a tremendous asset to both VANOC and the Canadian luge community over the next three years leading towards the Games.

KARBON

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You've seen him around the track, in the gym or at his desk in the CLA offices, so we'd like to formally introduce you to Mike Lane, development coach for the Canadian Luge Association. Mike is a graduate of the University of Calgary, with a degree in Kinesiology. He is also a former junior luge athlete himself, spending two years on the Junior National Team competing on the Junior World Cup circuit in both singles and doubles. A product of the multi-sport camps at Canada Olympic Park that gives participants the opportunity to try luge, Mike discovered a passion for the sliding sport that has stayed with him throughout the years. Now in his fourth

year as a member of the CLA team, Mike is participating in an internship program with the Coaching Association of Canada. The program was created to provide employment opportunities for young professionals, leading to long-term development. His goals are to return to school for a PhD, and eventually a Masters, researching athletics. And of course, to continue being involved with luge!



MIKE LANE
Development Luge Coach

AROUND THE GLOBE



Canada claimed bronze in the inaugural team relay event at the Luge World Cup in Königssee, Germany.

There are no batons to pass but the team relay is now an event on the World Cup circuit. Making its debut in Königssee, the team relay consists of one doubles team, one woman and one man competing for a combined time. What made this race different than previous team competitions was the introduction of a relay-type system that had the athletes tagging off on a rubber mat at the finish, which in turn opened the gate at the start for the next team member.

Canada's team, consisting of Calgary brothers Mike and Chris Moffat, Regan Lauscher, of Red Deer, Alta., and another Calgarian, Jeff Christie, crossed the line in third place.

The performance puts Canada in top spot in the overall team standings, with 215 points. Germany and the USA are tied for second with 200 points. With only one event left in Winterberg, Germany, February 10-11, Team Canada is looking to maintain their lead on the rest of the field.

WORLD CUP SCHEDULE:

January 20-21: WC #8 Altenberg, Germany
February 3-4: World Championships Igl, Austria

JUNIOR WORLD CUP SCHEDULE:

January 15-21: International training week
Turin, Italy
January 26-28: Junior World Championships

UPCOMING EVENTS:

January 8-22: Development trip to Sigulda, Latvia
January 27-28: ALA Cup #3
February 3-4: Alberta Provincial Championships



WORLD CUP WRAP-UP

The 2006 Viessmann Luge World Cup was nothing short of a hit. Described by race organizers, FIL officials, and participants as the best Calgary World Cup to date, the festival atmosphere surrounding the event attracted more than 3,000 people throughout the two days of competition.

"The 2006 Luge World Cup in Calgary was a tremendous success," said Tim Farstad, executive director, Canadian Luge Association. "Not only did we have great results from our athletes, but we also had the largest number of spectators ever. There was a great festival atmosphere

that we haven't had before. Having live bands playing and the draw for the Sony Playstation 3, combined with watching the world's best luge athletes compete for gold, made for a truly exceptional event."

We would like to send out a big thank you to all of the volunteers who helped to make the 2006 Luge World Cup such a tremendous success. Countless hours were spent pulling the event together, and would not have been possible without our dedicated team of volunteers, officials, coaches, athletes and staff. Together let's make next year's World Cup even better!

