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SPORTS

Kimberley athlete back from Kazakhstan for Canada Winter Games



Colin Ferrie is one of the Kimberley athletes competing at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George. — Image Credit: Photo Submitted

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Colin Ferrie is a very busy young skier.

Recently, during a layover at the Vancouver Airport, Ferrie spoke with the Advertiser about his time spent competing in Kazakhstan in the Under 23 World Cross Country Ski Championships and about the upcoming Canada Winter Games.

“There were people from all over Europe and some from Asia as well, so it was pretty tough competition,” said Ferrie, in regards to the competition in Kazakhstan. “I unfortunately didn’t have my best races there. Call it a combination of trouble with the time change and the incredible depth of competition, but I still raced strongly.”

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While in that country, Ferrie was able to visit markets, (with the help of an ever-present interpreter) and see a little bit of the country and its customs, including the amount of stray dogs in the country.

“In the second week over there, we saw someone walking a dog. In Canada, that’s normal, but over there it just seemed odd.”

And Ferrie gets back to Canada just in time to be one of the two Kimberley competitors at the Canada Winter Games, the second being 13-year-old Molly Miller.

The hallmark of this year’s games will be the competition. There will be around 2,400 athletes along with 1,000 coaches, all of whom want to take home a medal.

But Ferrie has been preparing for events like this for his entire life. Currently, he is with the Black Jack team in Rossland, but he had to get an early start to race at that level.

“My parents put me on skis when we moved to Kimberley shortly after I was three years old,” explained Ferrie. I skied downhill and cross country, but as a kid, I just liked pushing myself as hard as I could. Downhill just seemed like a free ride.”

Ferrie credits local coach Bill Green for helping him in the early years of his training, and Paul Freeze for his current success.

Not liking a free ride is evident in his training schedule. After working full time, he still puts in between 25 and 30 hours a week of practice. This work culminated in his participation in a 50-kilometre cross country ski race last year.

“I enjoy almost every event, but last year’s 50K was my favourite to date.”

For the upcoming competition, which happens in Prince George from February 13 to March 1, Ferrie has a tactic to keep him focused.

“I try never to think about the competition. I go into it already feeling ready and not stressed about it,” said Ferrie.

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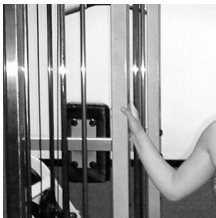
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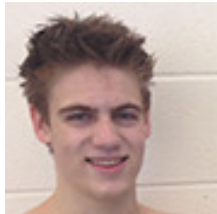
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