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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Greer on Podium Again at Nationals

Yukon skier David Greer picked up his third silver medal in as many days as the Haywood Ski Nationals continued in Collingwood, Ontario.

Races to day were mid-distance classic technique races, which for the men's field translated to 15 km over the twisty trails.

But it was the weather that was the headline performer.

Temperatures were warm over night, then fell in the morning, turning the stadium into a sheet of ice and making the racing trails, in the words of one skier, a "character building experience." To make matters even more challenging, winds gusting up to 90 km/hr made even standing up treacherous in spots.

Faced with a losing battle against Mother Nature, organizers postponed all but the Open Men's and Women's categories until Saturday.

This left only Greer, who finished less than 10 seconds back of Banff's Graeme Killick, in the Junior Men's field (run as part of the Open category) and Seniors Graham Nishikawa and Colin Abbot. Abbot is skiing in the University championship, also run as part of the huge Open Men's category.

Nishikawa finished in fourth place, just out of the medals, while Abbot picked up a top ten in the university competition. Stefan Kuhn, from Canmore, was the overall winner in the Men's field.

Skiers all faced major challenges on the courses, which ranged from slush to sheer ice. Spills were common, but no major injuries were reported and the races were a major test of the athletes balance and ski handling skills.

Races continue on Thursday with classic technique sprint races.

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