

Snowboarder earns World Cup invite

Andrew Matthews qualifies for Calgary stop on world tour

by James McCarthy
Northern News Services

Andrew Matthews is about to make his mark on the international snowboarding scene.

The Yellowknife snowboarder, who lives and trains in Whistler, B.C., has qualified for the next event on the LG Snowboard World Cup calendar at Canada Olympic Park in Calgary on Jan. 30, thanks to his seventh-place finish in the slopestyle event at the Calgary NorAm stop on Jan. 17. Matthews said he's been

shooting for this for a long time.

"It's a chance for me to get my name out," he said. "More experience is good and I'll see how I do there." Competing in Calgary almost wasn't even in the cards for Matthews due to nagging back problems. His back seized up during training just days before the event, and just to get into shape, Matthews went all around the city for physio and chiropractic appointments in the hopes of getting the kinks worked out. The back issues forced him to withdraw

from the half-pipe event on the Friday of the NorAm stop.

Luckily, the back managed to right itself and he was in the slopestyle event after a practice session the day before. Matthews said the entire episode brought him back to something similar to the 2007 Canada Winter Games.

"I had a knee injury and competed completely cold," he said. "I did well enough and finished fifth there and got into the finals, so this was almost like that again. I was just

trying to get the back to release and thankfully, it did in time."

This will be Matthews' first time competing on the World Cup circuit and while he said he's excited for the opportunity, he will be anxious.

"I'm just going to play it safe," he said. "I don't know if I'm going to make the finals, I would love to, of course, but I'm just excited to be a part of it all." Louise Matthews, president of NWT Boardsport, said it was an unexpected surprise to see her son get in.

"We're very proud to have a rider from here reach that level," she said. "He's not just representing Canada, he's representing the NWT as well, and I hope he does us proud."

Andrew Matthews said he's hoping this will be a springboard for future plans, such as the 2014 Winter Olympics in Sochi, Russia, where slopestyle will be an official medal event.

"Maybe the Olympics or the X Games," he said.



photo courtesy of Rob Picard

Andrew Matthews, seen during a recreational run in Whistler last year, has qualified for the LG Snowboard World Cup event in Calgary on Jan. 30.



CHEYENNE FONTANILLA

SPORTS CARD BASKETBALL

AGE: 10

Cheyenne likes playing basketball because it's fun. "I like dribbling and I always challenge myself to get better," she said. Her favourite team is the Weledch Wolves.



SESSION BEGINS JAN 27th

The latest Session of the Legislature begins today at 1:30pm.

For more information please visit the website.

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