



## Head Coach Report to Members: May 15, 2016

***Summit Ski Club, once again, Provincial Champion Club for 2015- 2016! This achievement is in recognition of the performances of athletes at all levels and all ages. Congratulations to everyone!***

### Season Highlights:

- Season kicked off with a very successful mountain camp, largest contingent of athletes exposed to a variety of challenging sets of drills and courses and all mountain free ski improvement opportunities
- Despite somewhat limited training due to a late start, athletes progressed well.
- Bottineau was a general highlight with all levels at the same location and an evening final for the dual slalom.
- Newer version of ACA Snow Stars Skills assessments has been integrated with Summit program
- Many of Summit's athletes were on the podium at every event!
- Strong support and assistance from our parent volunteers!
- *Ethan and Carter Grycko are retiring from racing, thanks for your perseverance and dedication. Thanks also to Rob for your dedicated leadership within our club over the years!*
- It is nice to have Maclean Hatherly and Steven Horbas engaged with their coaching support. We look forward to this help in subsequent years.

### Individual Highlights:

- Jacob King with strong finishes both in and out of province (Whistler Cup, etc.), including winning the final GS of the season
- Sara T-L finished 2nd in MB Cup overall, including winning one race
- Four of the top 5 overall males in the Manitoba Cup were from Summit: Jacob King, Jack Dunlop, Ethan Gryko, Jack Healey (not sure if this is the correct order)
- *Jack Dunlop became much faster this year!*
- Anna Blankstein won her first MB Cup individual race and placed 3rd overall for the season
- All of Summit athletes on Provincial Program showed strong progress over the season with Haleigh Eby and Hannah Dunlop very much improved
- Younger athletes like William Robinson, Matthew Sauer, Bythe Eby, Lauren King and Natalie Cuvelier showed promise with all on the podium at some point during the season
- Continued strong mentoring by Anna and Sara of younger athletes, both in training and on race days
- Former Summit Racers assisting and encouraging current Summit competitors, how cool is this? Thanks to Claire and Katie for this! What great demonstration of team pride!

## **Summary Report**

### **Seasonal Theme 2015- 2016: Keeping the passion of ski improvement and enhancing competitive spirit alive!**

Encouraging the love of the sport of Alpine Ski Racing requires athletes to be engaged through the following approaches:

- To have fun while working to acquire new skills and strategies
  - To be challenged with innovative approaches and in a variety of training environments! This fits with the Summit coach PD plan 2014- 2016!
  - “Athlete-centered approach” (learner centered) with an emphasis on athlete autonomy! Develop and tap into their knowledge with high expectations!
  - *Athletes need time for free play experiences! Let’s give them less supervised time ...*
  - To foster- “Skiing for Life” (CS4L- Canadian Sport for Life, Long Term Athlete Development Model)
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### ***Reflections:***

I actually believe that portions of the above statements could be reflected more clearly in our Club’s mission statement. Maybe our Summit Mission statement and Vision is something that our Board may consider for review.

I am also hopeful that we may consider some ideas for a Summit logo “refresh”.

### **Summary- Program Goals:**

#### **U12 Goal: To re-engage in sharing information with the updated Snow Stars program (2014- 2015).**

Summary: In review of our strategies to meet this goal we have re-engaged coaches in the assessment practice of these skills. We have initiated written details into skills assessment information to demonstrate athlete progress and additionally, certificates are available for sharing and to celebrate successes of athletes. In addition, as per previous years we have been incorporating into training and, skill assessment items are included in the stations of the Snow Stars weekend (MASD) on an annual basis.

In the strategy area of; *How can we optimize the engagement of feedback opportunities with athletes in regards to benchmarks through conversations, observations, video?* We will include this component of Skills Assessment Practices and Feedback into next season’s plan for further enhancements.

**Summary- Coaching Goals:**

**All Levels, Goal: Coaches will continue to pursue the use of the Big Ideas about athlete performance for achieving athlete success.**

**Enhanced learning and development requires the coach to optimize on the essential skills, strategies and tactics without losing sight of our Big Targets- “what does it look like in competition?” (Year 3).**

**Summary:** In the area of; *Are we continuing to demonstrate innovative training environments, training ideas on snow? How well do these ideas commit to the Big Ideas of ski racing?*

In making progress well into our third year for the above strategy, ongoing discussions and at times directives were shared with coaches to continue conversations and reflections amongst coaches to create optimal learning environments for all athletes.

**As always (for over 30 years), it has been my pleasure to serve our parents and athletes as Program Head Coach. At this time, I would like to thank our Club President, Ross Dunlop and the Summit Board for their display of genuine hard work in endeavoring to advance our program forward to achieve a *Fun, Progressive and Financially Sustainable program.***

**... in collaboration with Summit Coaches,**

**this report has been submitted by Brian Hatherly, Head Coach**

***“Summit Ski Club is a non-profit alpine ski organization based in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Members cooperate to encourage growth in knowledge and skill development of young athletes, in a safe, fun, and supportive environment” ... with a competitive spirit!***