

## Speed Skaters Capture Medals in Fredericton

*December 4th, 2013, Charlottetown* – Four Island short-track speed skaters grabbed medals at the recent Harold Joyce short track championship meet in Fredericton, N.B.

The medalists were among fifteen P.E.I. skaters in the strong field of over 150 short track skaters from the Maritimes and Quebec.

Simon Hale earned P.E.I.'s top podium finish with a silver medal in Division 7, as he posted personal best times in all of his distances after several exciting race finishes. Miriam Burnett in Division 3, Kristen Binns in Division 4 and Patrick Soucy in Division 6 claimed bronze medals for the P.E.I. squad. Burnett also finished as the Island's top female skater for the event.

Michael Rogers finished as the top ranked Island skater in the competition, with an 8<sup>th</sup> place overall finish in Division 1. Also skating in the top division or P.E.I. was Jared Vriends, who smashed the 50 second barrier for the first time in his 500 metre distance and posted a significant personal best time in the 1500m distance en route to a 12<sup>th</sup> overall placement.

"Our team was really up for this meet," said P.E.I. coach Sarah Taylor. "With the Olympic-sized ice in Fredericton and a really strong field, we knew everyone would be gunning for wins and fast times. Our senior skaters got a great taste of the level of competition they'll need to be ready for over the next year and a half heading into Canada Games and our younger kids competed hard and came up with some great results, so it was a great weekend for the whole team."

Also representing P.E.I. at the Fredericton meet were Zach Moran, Brandon Richard, Andrew McQuaid, Peter McQuaid, Korrina LeClair, Andrew Binns, Kyle Connell, Ben Keizer and Alex Rogers.

Host Fredericton skaters proved strong on their home ice, as Brendan Corey of Fredericton took top overall honours at the meet, while his teammate Heidi Evans was the top ranking female skater.

P.E.I.'s speed skaters resume their competitive schedule in early January with the Charles Gorman Memorial meet at Saint John's Harbour Station and the Atlantic Long Track Championships later in the month at Halifax's Emera Oval. The first events of 2014 will see the Island's top speedsters jockeying for provincial ranking positions and qualifying times to earn spots in national level meets in B.C. and Quebec in March.

Island speed skaters are also looking forward to their annual club fun meet on December 14, where many new skaters will take part in their first races and an afternoon of fun events.



*Photo caption: Short-track speed skater Simon Hale (right) won a silver medal for P.E.I. at the recent Harold Joyce Short Track Championship meet in Fredericton, N.B. Hale's podium finish was one of four medals earned by the Island club. Photo courtesy of Duncan McSporran.*