
News Release



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(Calgary) – They were calling it the “Humboldt 500” during the CanAm speed skating meet at the Olympic Oval in Calgary.

World record holder Jeremy Wotherspoon and Humboldt Speed Skating Club member William Dutton kicked off the men’s 500m. When the clock stopped, two of this year’s fastest times in the world were on the board.

Wotherspoon was born in Humboldt 33 years ago and his family headed for Red Deere a couple years later. The Humboldt Speed Skating Club still claims him as an honorary member. Dutton was born in Regina in 1989 and skated in Humboldt for six years.

It was a classic rookie meets veteran on the ice scenario. “I was so nervous I could hardly stay still at the starting line” Dutton said.

Wotherspoon had a slow start to the season and Dutton had been very fast the last few weeks. Both skaters had disappointing fall World Cup trials. Dutton fell and Wotherspoon did not make the 500m team as he struggled to comeback from a devastating injury suffered last year.

It was a race everyone in the building stopped to watch, a snapshot of a Canadian men’s team so deep in talent that seven of the 20 fastest times in the world currently belong to Canadians. Only five of them made the World Cup 500m and Dutton and Wotherspoon were on the outside looking in. Wotherspoon is the king, the world record holder. Dutton is in his first year of skating with the big boys.

Wotherspoon exploded off the line and finished with the fastest time in the world this year, stopping the clock at 34.70. Dutton faded a little at the finish, but still put up the sixth fastest time by a Canadian man this year with a 35.22. Wotherspoon was clearly relieved to have skated a strong race. A grinning Dutton said “I want another shot at him.”

The next day Dutton broke his own Saskatchewan men’s 500m record with a 35.11 and Wotherspoon had another 34. The skaters compete against each other again in December at the Canadian Single Distance Championships and Olympic trials in Calgary.

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