
News Release



For Immediate Release

Thursday January 14, 2010

Humboldt Skater at World Sprints in Japan during Earthquake

(Obihiro, Japan) Canadian World Sprint Championship speed skating team member William Dutton woke to roommate Matt McLean asking, "Why is the room shaking?"

The earthquake in Obihiro, Japan on Wednesday night registered 5.4 on the Richter scale. It shook the hotel housing the athletes in Japan for the 2010 International Speed Skating Union's World Sprint Championships.

"I told Matt it was an earthquake and he said 'B.S.' and rolled over and went back to sleep," said Humboldt Speed skating team member Dutton. The skater is in Japan with a four-man, two-woman team of long trackers.

Olympic skaters and those who just missed qualifying are in Japan to gain experience and help Canada maintain its top ranking in sprints. The team boasts two of the newest Canadian Olympians on the women's side: Anastasia Bucsis and Tamara Oudenarden, both of whom are on their way to Vancouver in February.

On the men's side, it is a more eclectic crew. Vincent LaBrie and Matt MacLean are not rookies on the Canadian team - both have World Cup experience. On the other hand, William Dutton and Tyler Derraugh have none. Dutton is the youngest and has moved up the ladder the quickly, while Derraugh had announced his retirement before he learned he would be named to the team.

Canada has the most talented and deepest mens sprint team in the world. The first six Canadian sprinters are all going to the 2010 Olympics. These young men are not going to 2010, but they could be going to 2014.

For further information contact:

Craig Dutton

250-927-2591

wcdutton@me.com