

Canada Winter Games next stop for Nakusp snowboarders

By Allison Alder

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With the snowboard racing season in full swing, five athletes from Nakusp joined over 120 snowboard cross racers at Big White on Sunday. Snowboard cross pits groups of four racers together at a time down a course full of jumps, rollers and banked corners.

Jessica Hogg and Alex Marshall both scooped 2nd place in their respective amateur over-19 categories. In their first competition of the year, both held strong lines through each of their heats, placing in the top two, and therefore advancing on to the next round. Hogg remarked that it was a great weekend overall, "I felt really

solid this weekend; I had a blast and met a lot of great people." She'd like to recognize Box Mountain Wood Products for their sponsorship.

F.I.S. competitors have to qualify in time trials in order to race, and Nakusp's Carly and Alex Thorp and Jesse McDonald all qualified. Alex raced a good first heat, but crossed the finish line 4th and so earned 30th overall for the day. Jesse and Carly both took first place in their first heats, moving on to the semi-finals. In separate heats in the semi-final round, Carly placed 4th, moving her into the consolation finals, while Jesse again grabbed 1st, moving her into the finals.

Both girls went into their final run in high spirits. Carly struggled on one of the early berms, but caught up to the pack and made a pass to place 3rd in the heat, leaving her with overall 7th place. Jesse headed out of the start gate a little behind one of the girls and tried to pass on an inside corner, only to hit a gate, leaving her in 4th place in the heat and 4th overall in the race.

The next competition is the Canada Winter Games for Carly, Jesse and Alex.

See next week's *Arrow Lakes News* for a report on the Nakusp contingent at the Canada Winter Games.