



ORIENTEERING
C A N A D A

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ORIENTEERING: Canadian Athletes Announced for World Championships

CALGARY (June 27, 2008) – The Canadian Orienteering Federation (COF) announced the athletes who will represent Canada at the upcoming World Orienteering Championships, World Junior Orienteering Championships and the World University Orienteering Championships.

The team to the World Orienteering Championships (WOC) in Olomouc, Czech Republic from July 10 – 20 is comprised of 5 women and 6 men. The web site for the 2008 World Orienteering Championships is www.woc2008.cz.

The women are Sandy Hott (Kristiansand, Norway), Charlotte MacNaughton (Calgary, AB), Louise Oram (Vancouver, BC), Heather Smith (Halifax, NS) and Victoria Smith (Halifax, NS). The men are Nick Duca (Kitchener, ON), Patrick Goeres (Winnipeg, MB), Brent Langbakk (Whitehorse, YT), Mike Smith (Prince George, BC), Wil Smith (Cochrane, ON) and Jon Torrance (Washington, DC). The team leaders are Magnus Johansson and Andrea Balakova from Vancouver, BC.

All the athletes on this year's team have competed before at the annual World Orienteering Championships. Sandy Hott was ninth in the middle distance event at the 2005 World Championships in Japan. This is the best ever result by a North American at the World Championships. Prior to Sandy's ninth place finish in 2005, the best ever result by a non-European was Canadian Ted de St. Croix in 10th place in 1985. "Traditionally Scandinavian athletes top the results list, but over the last decade French and Swiss athletes have frequently won the big races" explains athlete and COF President Charlotte MacNaughton. "Non-Europeans are gradually climbing up the results list in this European-dominated sport."

The Junior World Orienteering Championships (JWOC) are in Gothenburg, Sweden from June 30 to July 6. The women on the team are Emily Kemp (Ottawa, ON) and Carol Ross (Moncton, NB). The men are Colin Abbott (Whitehorse, YT), Robbie Anderson (Ottawa, ON), Graham Ereaux (Moncton, NB), Lee Hawkings (Whitehorse, YT), Damian Konotopetz (Winnipeg, MB) and Fraser Ross (Moncton, NB). The two alternates are Eric Kemp (Ottawa, ON) and Jeffrey Teutsch (Nepean, ON). The team leaders and coaches are: Randall Kemp (Ottawa, ON), Mike Smith (Prince George, BC) and David Ross (Moncton, NB). The Junior World Orienteering Championships web site is at www.gmok.nu/jwoc2008.

Darius Konotopetz of the Coureurs de Bois Orienteering Club in Winnipeg, MB will be competing at the World University Orienteering Championships (WUOC) in Tartu, Estonia from July 29 to August 2. The web site is at www.easl.ee/wuoc2008.

Athletes from forty countries are competing at the world championships; 37 countries at the junior championships and 25 countries and the university championships. There are three lengths of races (sprint, middle and long) and a relay at the championships.

The Canadian Orienteering Federation (COF) is the national governing body for the sport of orienteering. It is responsible for the development of orienteering in Canada, including Canada's participation at the World and World Junior Orienteering Championships. There are four disciplines in orienteering: orienteering on foot, orienteering on nordic skis, orienteering by mountain bike, and trail orienteering which is designed for athletes with a mobility impairment. For more information, visit the COF website at www.orienteering.ca.

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