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481 UNIVERSITY AVE.
TORONTO, M5W 1A7

Midweek Banner
Orangeville, Ont.
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CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICES

4788 Skiers show well in nationals, experience rated highly

FLIN FLON—Darrell Ross and Al Pilcher barely had time to consider their finishes in the Canadian junior cross country skiing championships last week before they were flown in to help the Orangeville District Secondary School team capture an the all-Ontario championship.

But when things finally started to settle down for the duo, they confirmed that they were both pleased with their results, and thrilled by the experience.

Pilcher, 17, was competing in the junior mens' category and recorded a 14th in the 15 kilometre race and a 16th in the 7.5 kilometre race the following day. He was 22nd in a time trial for the national team held on the first day of competition.

"Finishing in the top 20 was like a dream for me," said



AL PILCHER

Pilcher, who competed as a junior boy last year. "Last year I was pleased just to be there, but I was surprised and very happy with my results this year."

Pilcher said a poor choice of wax in the 7.5 k. race was responsible for his finish.

"At that point, everyone is very close so you're not beating the racer, you're beating the wax."

Pilcher expects that with some hard training through the fall and summer, and if he "hits the wax", a finish in the top 10 could be in sight for next year.

Ross, competing as a junior boy, was making his first appearance in the junior nationals. He was eighth in the five kilometre race and 18th in the 7.5 k. In the selection race, he finished 26th.

Ross also blamed poor waxing as a factor in the 18th place finish, citing poor placings by all members of the Southern Ontario Division he

was representing.

"My first goal was to place in the top 20 and I also wanted to beat the other S.O.D. racers and I accomplished that," Ross said.

Ross described competing in the national event, an "ultimate" experience. "Whenever I started getting tired during my summer and fall training, all I had to do was think about going to Flin Flon in the winter and I'd keep going," Ross said.

The S.O.D team with Ross and Pilcher competing finished 10th overall.

The pair left the national competition Sunday by plane, arrived in Toronto Monday morning, where they were driven to the final day of the all-Ontario high school championships in Sudbury Tuesday.



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481 UNIVERSITY AVE
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Orangeville Citizen
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CANADIAN PRESS CLIPPING SERVICE

Orangeville ski club D788 shines at area meets

The Orangeville Cross Country Ski Club proved to be big winners at two separate meets in the past week.

At the Southern Ontario Championships held over the weekend at Circle R Ranch in London the team had three members do exceptionally well.

Alan Pilcher placed second in the junior men's division while Darrell Ross placed first in junior boys. Darrell's sister Regan placed first in the juvenile girl's competition.

Both Alan and Darrell have qualified to go on to the Canadian Junior Championships which will be held in Flin Flon, Manitoba, Feb 18 to 21.

Coach Don Ellis said he was proud of his team's display racing under "less than ideal conditions."

Last Tuesday the Orangeville girl's team placed a decisive first in a competition held at Pleasure Valley, north of Markham. The Orangeville team had a score of 30 points while the closest team had 59.

The boy's team came in a close second with 44 points losing out to Collingwood who won the overall competition by one point

with a score of 43.

Orangeville's Dierdre Domegan placed first in the girl's division while Alan Pilcher place second in the

boys division.

"We had super results this past week, and I feel our team is getting really strong," said Mr. Ellis.



Alan Pilcher and Darrell Ross have qualified for the Canadian Junior Ski Championships in Manitoba next month.

Members of the Orangeville Cross-Country Ski Club have been doing well in meets recently.

[Photo by Michael Harding]