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SKIERS AND SKATERS JOIN IN THE GAMES

Whether on ice or snow, amateur athletes continue to excel

WILLIAMSTOWN, MA-The second day of ISI Figure Skating brought energy and excitement to the Williams College Skating Rink in Williamstown, MA. The Freestyle competition was the main event yesterday with highlights including Ellie Baumgarten (Cohasset, MA) winning the Freestyle 6 division for 11-14 year olds, Neila Kudla (Groton, MA) placing first for Freestyle 6 for 15 year olds, and Katelyn Boss (Swansea, MA) beating out the other Freestyle 6 16-18 year olds.

Just as USFSA Figure Skaters did earlier in the day, ISI sent top skaters to the Bay State Skate Figure Skating Show. Brittany Besse (Wareham, MA) earned a bid by winning the Level 7 Group 1 Ladies, Emily Vitali (Rockland, MA) represented Level 7 Group 2 Ladies, and Alexis Demetriades (Scituate, MA) rounded out the added ISI participants by clinching the Level 8 Group 2 Gold medal.

The Bay State Skate show was a display of remarkable and graceful individual and pairs skating from across the state. The night began with the athlete march, which gave athletes from all Winter Games sports a chance to come together and be recognized. The elegant singing of the National Anthem was performed by Barbara Baumgarten (Cohasset, MA), semi-professional singer and mother of two Bay State Games Figure Skaters. Smiles beamed from onlookers as feature skater, former Russian National Champion Alexander Abt, showed the crowd his acrobatic jumps combined with a high energy performance. The conclusion of the show brought all athletes from the Bay State Skate back to the ice to help Abt with the ceremonial torch lighting and passing.

Elsewhere in the Berkshires, high school alpine skiers gathered for their one day competition. The event saw 30 male and 33 female skiers at Jiminy Peak in Hancock, MA. On the boys' side, local skier Bobby Jones (Pittsfield, MA) came out on top of the 9/10 grade division with a combined time of 1:07.62 for his two runs, which also placed him second in the overall competition. Steven Combs (Dalton, MA) had a combined time of 1:05.37 which was good enough to win the 11/12 grade division as well as the overall competition. For the girls overall winner and champion of the 9/10 graders was Katie Martin (Richmond, MA) with a combined time of 1:11.98. Winner of the 11/12 grade girls with a time of 1:12.51 was Stacey Meader (Shrewsbury, MA).

ISI Figure Skating returns for its final day of competition today Sunday, January 29 between 1:00pm-5:30pm at Williams College. For more information regarding any of the three featured sports, please visit www.baystategames.org/winter.

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