

## Saskatchewan Cross Country Skier Off to Universiade in February

Nils Lokken from the Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club will be a part of the Canadian team at the 2009 Winter Universiade (World University Games) in Harbin, China, February 18-28.

Nils began skiing with the Saskatoon Nordic Jackrabbits followed by several years of biathlon before joining the Saskatoon HiPer Ski Club. He was part of the Saskatchewan team at the 2007 Canada Winter Games in Whitehorse while attending university in Saskatoon.

Nils also pursued excellence in his cross country skiing during a year in Norway (2005-2006) where he was enrolled in an outdoor adventure program. While there he had the opportunity to ski the Birkebeiner. In 2007-2008 he moved to Camrose AB to train with the University of Alberta Augustana Campus ski team. He was part of Augustana's national champion cross country running team (Canadian Colleges Athletic Association) and won a bronze medal in the CCUNC (Canadian College and University Nordic Championships) Team Sprint Relay at the 2008 Ski Nationals. Nils was subsequently awarded the overall Augustana Male Athlete of the Year award.

Nils now resides in Vernon BC where he trains with XC Okanagan at Sovereign Lake and attends UBC Okanagan in Kelowna, studying environmental science. He is proud to be from Saskatchewan and is grateful for the encouragement, coaching and financial support he has received over the years from the Saskatoon Nordic Ski Club and Cross Country Saskatchewan.

For more information about the 2009 Winter Universiade readers can go to the following internet sites:

<http://www.harbin2009.org/en/index.shtml>

[http://www.fisu.net/site/page\\_950.php](http://www.fisu.net/site/page_950.php)

<http://www.cisport.ca/harbin/index.htm>