



PAUL MACDONALD AND NICOLE BLACKMORE WIN OVERALL OPEN TITLES AT BAREFOOT WATER SKI NATIONALS

Water Ski Wakeboard Ontario
Toronto, Ontario
August 25, 2009

NEWMARKET, Ont. – For the second year in a row, Paul MacDonald of Milton, Ont., overcame an injury to win the men’s open title at the Canadian barefoot water ski championships while Nicole Blackmore of Aldergrove, B.C., took the women’s open title for a third straight year.

In men’s competition, MacDonald tore his rotator cuff in his right shoulder on Friday in a jump competition but competed anyway in Saturday’s open event to win the overall crown for the fourth straight year. George Weekes of Toronto was second overall and Gordie Croteau of Repentigny, Que., third.

MacDonald placed first in the tricks event Saturday and was second in both slalom and jump.

“The highlight for me was how I was able to put the injury behind me and come back and win,” said MacDonald, who overcame a sore neck last year to win the overall title. “There was no strength in that shoulder at all today and I really wasn’t sure whether I would compete. But I got the green light from the doctor and he just told me to make sure I landed cleanly in the jump event.”

Croteau, a five-time national open champion and a double medallist at the world championships earlier this year, earned his slalom victory in a steady downpour.

“It felt like having needles in your face,” said Croteau, 42, about the rain pelting his face during his run. “I just wanted to make sure I had a clean run and wasn’t too sloppy.”

Weekes won the jump event.

In women’s competition, Blackmore, 19, was first overall with Danielle Tipping of Victoria second and Katie Godfrey of Georgetown, Ont., third. Blackmore won the tricks and Tipping topped the slalom and jump standings.

“I didn’t do as well as I could have,” said Blackmore. “I was disappointed with going out of position in the jump. I was comfortable in tricks but again the slalom was subpar. I was hoping I could have left here with a personal best.”

The wakeboard nationals are August 27-30 in Peterborough, Ont.