

UNI SNOW GAMES 2009 – DAY FOUR



Uni Snow Games Wraps Up with a Fantastic Day on the Slopes Of Snow Park

After two out of three days with closed mountains and cancelled events, the final day of the 2009 University Snow Games was one to remember.

The day didn't begin as hoped with snow to low levels and the delayed start of the day's events, but as the skies cleared, competitors got out their chains and drove the road to Snow Park through an impressive covering of fresh snow.

While the Half Pipe had to be cancelled, the other freestyle events produced some impressive results. The Slopestyle event, proudly supported by Camp Counsellors USA, was closely contested, with Kelli Redes from Otago edging out Georgina Allen from Canterbury in the Female Boarder category. Nicole Blanks from Melbourne University took out the Female Skier category, again a close competition as Nicole won over Cantabrian, Georgia McNamara, by just one point.

In the male Slopestyle events, Hamish McDougall from Otago took the Skier title and fellow Otago student, Tom Grooten, was judged the best Boarder.

In the show event, the Big Air, Hamish McDougall and Tom Grooten produced yet more classy tricks to take out the skier and boarder titles respectively. Toni-Rose Brookes from Victoria University triumphed in the female skier category and Nicole Blanks from Melbourne claimed another Gold, judged best female Big Air Boarder.

While skiers and boarders were showing off their skills at the Big Air, 42 students headed down the road to Snow Farm to tackle the 2.7km Cross Country Skiing course. And what a great race! Auckland University claimed their first Gold medal through the efforts of Erik Tomsen, finishing in just over 16 minutes in the men's race and Melbourne took home another Gold medal with Julia Clemente coming in first in the women's.

The Games concluded with Prizegiving at Shooters Bar in Wanaka, and after five events running on the final day, the collation of results to find the overall Boarder and Skier for both men and women was a mighty task! But after results from all seven events were tallied, the best overall competitors were found. Otago University took out both top male categories with Tom Grooten winning the Overall Male Boarder and Hamish McDougall the Overall Male Skier. Georgina Allen from Canterbury University was awarded the Overall Female Boarder title and Nicole Blanks from Melbourne University received the award for Overall Female Skier, even though her preferred discipline is snowboarding!

Although this year's Games were condensed into just two competition days due to appalling weather conditions, seven of the twelve scheduled events were completed and 180 students had a blast. The Wanaka Police reported excellent behaviour from all students involved and said they have enjoyed having the students in town.

University Sport New Zealand extends huge thanks to everyone who worked so tirelessly to put this year's Games together. Special thanks to all our sponsors who have supported us for the 2009 Uni Snow Games; ZM, ALAC, The Southern Trust, V, Camp Counsellors USA, and Neutrogena.

We're looking forward to working with everyone again in preparation for 2010!

Keep and eye on www.universitysport.org.nz for a full list of results and lots of great photos!

University Snow Games 2009 proudly supported by:

