

# Medal dream is still alive

Cross-country ski star in pursuit of Olympic glory

By Pat Scott

p.scott@spp-group.com

**HUNTLY was put on the world map when cross-country skier Andrew Musgrave recorded Great Britain's best ever Nordic Ski result at the Olympic Winter Games.**

Watched by his family from Oyne who are in PyeongChang in South Korea, the former Gordon Schools pupil posted a historic seventh place at the Alpensia Cross-Country Skiing Centre in the men's 30km skiathlon.

The result, in a time of one hour 16 minutes and 45.70 seconds boosted his hopes for the 15km race which was due to take place early this morning when he vowed to crack the podium - his ultimate target.

Andrew is competing in the games alongside Andrew Young, from Huntly and Callum Smith from Inverurie and all three developed their skill in cross country skiing at the Nordic and Outdoor Centre at Hill of Haugh.

Peter Thorne of Huntly Nordic Ski Club said the whole club had been overjoyed and very excited by Andrew's result and he anticipated members would be up early today to cheer on the three skiers.

He said: "It has been great to hear all the reports on the television that mention Huntly and the amazing success of our skiers. They are inspiring a whole new generation of British cross-country skiers."

Tony Gill, Huntly Community Council's chairman commended the local facility where the boys still return to for training in the



Andrew Musgrave in pursuit in the 30km skiathlon.

Picture: Frank Musgrave

summer and said: "It is great to see and hear about local lads who have set their goals to be great athletes with determination and focus on reaching their potential at the highest level.

"It is even more poignant when their inspiration, dedication and hard training started out from the Nordic Ski facility in Huntly. To be chosen as part of the Olympic

“

I'm not at the Olympics to come seventh. I'm here to fight for a win

Andrew Musgrave

team is a great achievement. We wish them continued success in their endeavours."

PE teacher of the two Andrews, Diane Harper added her congratulations and said: "The boys have both shown that through dedication and hard work it is possible to compete as elite athletes.

"Their performances will inspire and encourage many youngsters to strive to be the best they can be. We are extremely proud of them both and wish them every success at the Olympics and in the future."

But while in Huntly and round about people were delighted with Andrew's seventh place, the athlete was self critical and said: "I'm a little disappointed. It's a decent result but I'm not at the Olympics to come seventh. I'm here to fight for a win. If you told me 10 years ago I would be seventh in the Olympics, I wouldn't have

thought I would be disappointed with it.

"But that is what makes an athlete - you want more.

"If you don't believe you can win, then you're not going to spend the thousands of hours out training and pushing your pain limits every session."

Looking ahead to this morning's freestyle event he said: "The 15km should be my best event. I was in the fight for the medals in the skiathlon until the last couple of kilometres. Come Friday I should be in the fight for the victory."

Team mates Callum Smith and Andrew Young were proud of his achievement.

Callum said: "It's a brilliant result for Andrew. He was probably a little bit disappointed but I think it showed that he is hopefully capable of a medal. It would be massive."

# Muzzy is in frame for shot at Olympic glory

Olympics by Chris Saunderson

**ANDREW Musgrave will ski for Winter Olympics glory this morning in South Korea.**

The Huntly Nordic skier was in confident mood ahead of his favoured 15km event following a stunning performance in the 30km skiathlon on Sunday.

Musgrave was in medal contention for most of the race, eventually finishing seventh in a best ever GB performance in the event.

Musgrave told the Huntly Express: "The 30km was a good start. I was a bit disappointed to miss out on a medal, but have another chance on Friday. I'm looking forward to it!"

The 27-year-old, who is based in Norway, was in the lead pack for most of the 30km race at the Alpensia Cross-Country Skiing Centre.

Simen Hegstad Krueger led a Norwegian clean sweep of the medals with Musgrave seventh and Callum Smith from Inverurie in 57th.

It was the best-ever result by a GB cross-country skier at an Olympic Winter Games, placing seventh in a time of 1:16:45.70.

Musgrave added: "I felt awesome with about a lap and a half to go and I felt that I would be in the fight for the victory. I just ended up going a little bit too hard on the last lap.

"After that, until about 2km to go, I was still thinking I could be in the fight for silver and bronze but the second to last hill, I just realised my legs were a little bit heavy and I didn't quite have enough in the tank.

"It's a decent result but I'm not at the Olympics to come seventh. I'm here to fight for a win."

Looking ahead to Friday's 15km free event

"It does give me a bit of confidence



Huntly's Andrew Musgrave powers his way to a magnificent seventh place finish in the 30km skiathlon.

Picture: flyingpointroad.com

today. The 15km should be my best event. I should be in the fight for the victory."

■ Live coverage of Musgrave's 15km free race today starts from 6am on the BBC.

“

I felt awesome with about a lap and a half to go

**Andrew Musgrave**



Team Muzzy. Andrew with his brother Ben, mum Hilary, sister Posy and dad Frank.