

Hans Skinstad named Interim Head Coach of Vikings Biathlon team

August 24th, 2009

The Augustana Campus of the University of Alberta is pleased to announce the appointment of Hans Skinstad as Interim Head Coach of the Vikings Biathlon team. This is the second time Hans has served as Head Coach of the team, acting as Head Coach from 1980-1986 of the Camrose Lutheran College Vikings.

Hans brings tremendous experience to the Biathlon program, holding 32 National Championship medals as an athlete. He skied in two World Championships and represented Canada as a Cross Country Skier in the Olympic Games in 1976. Hans got his start in Biathlon by serving in Norway's Biathlon National Guard from 1978 and served to 1991.

Over the years Hans has placed 11 athletes on the National Biathlon team including Olympians Glenn Rupertus, Yvonne Visser and Jane Isakson. He served as the National Biathlon Team Head Coach in the 1988 Olympics in Calgary. He was also the National Women's Coach for two World Championships. He coached his sons Kai and Jon from 2001-2009 as well as serving as an assistant coach for the Vikings Cross-Country Ski team. "I see great potential in Augustana's unique Biathlon team," stated Hans. "Augustana is the only post-secondary Biathlon program in the country, thus allowing student athletes to pursue their passion for biathlon".

"I am pleased to have Hans take over the reins of a program that has been served so well by the previous Biathlon coaches" Said Director of Athletics Greg Ryan. Athlete Alicia Hurley expressed the following sentiment, "We are looking forward to the experience and technical background that Hans can bring to the team in both skiing and shooting. The new and returning athletes will all benefit from the depth of his knowledge."