



PRESS RELEASE

NB Fencer LeBlanc captures bronze at National Selection Circuit

At the first National Fencing Selection Circuit competition of the season in Saskatoon last weekend, New Brunswick fencers, Marc-Andre Leblanc & Michael Dobbelsteyn were aiming to build their high performance rankings. LeBlanc, a native of Shediac, captured bronze in senior men's epee to mark his return to high performance competition after almost two years of reduced training & competition due to a lower leg stress fracture. Over the past six weeks, LeBlanc has captured gold in three major open tournaments – Governor-General's in Ottawa, Queen's University Open in Kingston and Terres des Hommes in Montreal.

Michael Dobbelsteyn of Sussex finished in 17th place in the same event after a 14-15 loss to Mario Sirotic of British Columbia. This result comes one week after Dobbelsteyn gained the top Canadian junior epee result at the North American Cup competition in Texas. He finished 19th out of 218 competitors and this result will put him in the running to make the national team for the 2012 Junior World Championships to be held in Moscow next spring.

Both LeBlanc and Dobbelsteyn are training in Ottawa where LeBlanc is completing his studies at the University of Ottawa and Dobbelsteyn is in his second year of studies at Carleton University.

The next major selection competition for these fencers will be the North American Cup competition in Portland, Oregon from January 13 to 16.

For further information, please contact FENB Technical Director, Barbara Daniel at 454-7886.