

SPORTS BRIEFS

Northland 300 around the corner

The Northland 300 snowmobile run for the Special Olympics will again start and end in Two Harbors, Jan. 21-25, 2009. This year is the 21st annual benefit run.

Opening ceremonies begin at 8 a.m. on Thursday, Jan. 22 at Superior Shores Lodge. The teams plan to arrive at Grand Ely Lodge in Ely that afternoon. Friday is a free day for the participants. Saturday, the journey continues, with teams departing Grand Ely Lodge at 8 a.m., and arriving back at Superior Shores Lodge in mid-afternoon.

Special Olympics athlete Steven Eull and supporting coach Jason Reinsch are gearing up for their first ever Northland 300. When Reinsch began coaching Eull in downhill skiing, he was petrified to go down a hill, but instead of starting out on a "bunny hill," they took a chair lift and attempted the slopes.

"The first time I took Steven skiing, I skied backward with Steven in front of me hanging on for dear life, and it took us two hours to get to the bottom of the hill," said Reinsch.

Today, Eull skis black diamond and

slalom.

Follow their journey on the Northland 300 website and learn about Steven's Special Olympics team, the Flames, at www.northland300.org.

Special Olympics Minnesota provides year round sports training and competition for people with intellectual disabilities. Participation contributes to life-long physical fitness, personal growth and achievements. To learn more check www.specialolympicsminnesota.org or contact Kathy Karkula, (612) 604-1272 or karkulak@somn.org.