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*For Immediate Release  
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#### Campbell Comes Back To Win National Title

**Lake Placid, NY, March 1.** 2002 Olympian Dan Campbell, came back from a case of severe frostbite on his shooting hand three weeks ago to win the 12.5K Pursuit Format National Championship today.

Three weeks ago, Dan Campbell was worried that he might lose his thumb because of the frostbite and infection in it. He was not too concerned about much else after the 20K Individual competition at the National Guard Biathlon Championships in Jericho, VT. Campbell, up to that time, never wore gloves. On a day with temperatures hovering near zero and skiing at speeds of 40 miles per hour on the downhill, the Hastings, Minnesota native crossed the finish line with hyperthermia, a low body temperature, and literally a frozen hand, all caused by getting too cold. He recalled, "At the time, I was not too worried. I did not think it was too bad." That is, until he went to the hospital his hand swelled up with blisters and the thumb was having circulation problems.

Fast forwarding to the first day of March, the hand is now is covered with the remains of the blisters and a lot of reddish pink new skin. As for his thumb, the nail is loose and it has affected Campbell's shooting style. "I have to be more deliberate bolting now. Actually that is good, because now I never get a spent shell stuck in the bolt from bolting too fast." As for the pain in the thumb, he said, " I just decided to deal with it. It is definitely getting better, " as he wiggles the thumb, "Now I can move it pretty good."

Campbell showed just how well the recovery is coming with his convincing win today. Last winter, he literally shot his way on to the Olympic Biathlon Team, with fast accurate shooting in three of the Trials competitions. His 18 of 20 shooting today was by far the best today. In the first prone stage today, four of the contenders including Campbell had zero or one penalty. On the second stage, he matched hometown favorites, Lowell Bailey and Tim Burke and Olympian Jay Hakkinen by shooting clean. But as soon as the standing shooting started, the top of the field dwindled rapidly. Bailey had three penalties, Burke two, and Hakkinen five. US Biathlon Teammate Jesse Downs matched Campbell's one penalty, but was skiing a bit slower. On the penultimate stage, Bailey, the winner of Thursday's 10K sprint had just one penalty and was back in contention. Yet, the gritty Campbell was not giving up and shot clean, sealing a victory by 20.9 seconds.

Bailey's four penalties cost him the race, but his second place secured him a position on the World Championship Team. Dan Campbell's victory moved him up in the standings and made Sunday's Relay Sprint more interesting. Jesse Downs, of Sylvan Beach, NY again finished third, 1:10.1 behind Campbell. Tim Burke, the defending National Champion finished fourth, only .5 seconds behind Downs. Hakkinen ended up with nine penalties in seventh place, 3:25.2 off the pace.

Reflecting on his race and the past few weeks, the easy going Campbell said matter-of-factly, " Well, it went better than Thursday. That is for sure. Basically, today, I did not make any stupid mistakes. I took it easy the first couple of loops and actually thought about shooting each time I got to the range. I know that you are not supposed to do that, but I wanted to have a good result. So, I shot very carefully." As for his prospects, "I hope that I can continue to get faster tomorrow. I missed a lot of training and have not raced for a while. I feel confident." Obviously, a berth on the World Championship Team would be a fitting conclusion to Campbell's comeback story. It is safe to say that if he makes the team, Campbell will be wearing gloves when he skis in Siberia.

Just as Dan Campbell leapfrogged from fifth in the sprint to first, so did Tracy Barnes of Durango, CO. Unlike Campbell who had "four stupid penalties" in the sprint, Barnes had only one.

Even though she shot well, her skiing that day was not up to par and she finished 58.1 seconds back. The women's 10K Pursuit Format competition was a whole different story. She buried the field and twin sister, Lanny who was second, by 52 seconds. When shown the results, the winner commented, " I am surprised. The course was pretty hilly and I had to work hard, but that is big margin. " Barnes did not take the lead until after the first standing stage. She and sister, Lanny both had three penalties in prone and were a bit behind Sprint Champion Sarah Riley of Proctor, MN and Sarah Granroth of Marquette, MI. While the others were missing targets on standing, Tracy Barnes was knocking them over. She had only one standing penalty to sister Lanny's three, Granroth's two and Riley's five.

Asked if she was concerned after the sub-par prone shooting, Tracy Barnes commented, " I knew this was a four stage race and a lot can happen in the last two stages. I just shot with that in mind." Sister Lanny after placing second was philosophical, " The race went much better than some earlier in the season. I feel pretty good and hope to shoot clean tomorrow."

Following the Barnes sisters, Sarah Granroth, with four penalties finished 1:01.8 back and Sarah Riley with five penalties, 1:23.9 back. These results make the Relay Sprint extremely important for the women. The Barnes twins and Sarah Riley will be battling for the two spots on the World Championship Team. The best shooters will probably make the team.

In the National Championship categories the winners were Campbell, in the Senior Men; Sara Granroth in the Senior Women; Tim Burke in the Junior Men; Tracy Barnes in the Junior Women; Kurt Farchmin of Duluth, MN, in the Youth Men and Kelsy Bouchard of Fort Kent, ME, in the Youth Women.

#### Men's 12.5k Pursuit Format

1. Dan Campbell	2 penalties	33:32.7
2. Lowell Bailey	4 penalties	33:53.6
3. Jesse Downs	4 penalties	33:42.8
4. Tim Burke	4 Penalties	43:43.3
5. Jacob Beste	5 penalties	35:40.6

#### Women's 10K Pursuit Format

1. Tracy Barnes	4 penalties	35:39.8
2. Lanny Barnes	6 penalties	36:31.8
3. Sarah Granroth	4 penalties	36:48.6
4. Sarah Riley	5 penalties	37:03.7
5. Denise Teela	6 penalties	37:36.2

The US Biathlon Team competes under the auspices of the United States Biathlon Association, the National Governing Body for the Olympic sport of Biathlon. Federal Cartridge, adidas, the National Shooting Sports Foundation and Exel Ski Poles sponsor the US Biathlon Team.