



Mount Everest of Biathlon

Brendan continues to build on his strong showing from the first half of the World Cup Biathlon circuit. His most recent set of races took place in the U.S.A. at Presque Isle and Fort Kent. Many biathletes consider the course at Fort Kent to be one of the toughest they have ever skied on. Team-mate Rosanna Crawford describes it as follows; "As you leave the range you climb a hill that is steep and where a normal hill would end you are only half way up it, after a quick flat section another tough climb awaits you. Magdalena Neuner said about the pursuit race you have to "...ski the Mount Everest of biathlon five times..." Lowell Bailey of US team called the initial climb possibly "the biggest hill I've ever seen on a biathlon course."

Although he wasn't able to match his best ever 14th place result, he still managed to accumulate 14 additional Cup points by placing in the top 40 in 3 of the 4 Individual events. He now has 112 points and a 46th place in overall World Cup standings, just 10 points and 3 places behind team-mate J.P. Leguellec –Canada's top male biathlete ever. With the exception of Leguellec, Brendan's overall World Cup standing this season has already surpassed that of any other Canadian male biathlete in the last 12 years.

Another Mount Everest of biathlon awaits Brendan and the Canadian team: they will be striving to peak at the next set of races: the IBU World Championships in Russia March 1-13. Brendan is now finishing off a session of high altitude training Italy in final preparation. He then travels to the heart of Siberia in Khanty-Mansiysk on Saturday. His first scheduled race will be the Mixed Relay on Mar. 3.