



NORTH COUNTRY SCHOOL



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### **ROBEL TEKLEMARIAM QUALIFIES FOR VANCOUVER 2010 OLYMPICS**

*Despite a very tight schedule and late start to the ski season, several cancelled races due to lack of snow, and running a one-man team, Robel Teklemariam has proved triumphant and already overcome major hurdles just to qualify for Vancouver.*

Richmond, VA – January 21, 2010 – With much gratitude for the support from our few sponsors, along with numerous individual donations and contributions, the Ethiopia Ski Team is proud to send Robel Teklemariam to Vancouver to represent Ethiopia once again.

With qualification under his belt, Robel is now intensely focused on training for Vancouver. If the journey to qualify has displayed anything, it is Robel's resiliency and resourceful nature to get where he wants. Mostly traveling throughout Europe by train with a 40 kilo ski bag and luggage, he managed to track down races in Switzerland, Italy, Austria, Germany, and the Czech Republic, officially qualifying on January 14<sup>th</sup> in the National Championships 15 km race in Marbach, Switzerland.

“It's been an exhausting past month and a half. Been traveling around all over, trying to get to races and snow, my body's exhausted now. It's time to just ski and train and get really prepared for Vancouver.” – Robel Teklemariam

While in Vancouver, Robel and ESA intend on carrying out its mission to groom and organize young Ethiopians interested in skiing and winter sports. Through coordination with the Ethiopian Community Association in Vancouver, event planning is in progress to provide ski lessons for Ethiopian youth and adults. More information will be posted on the ESA website as developments progress.

Currently, Robel has returned to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, taking care of ESA business, conducting interviews, as well as training on roller skis and other conditioning. He expects to travel on February 2<sup>nd</sup> to Vancouver.

ESA strives to extend the tradition of Ethiopia's success into the winter games for years to come. Sponsorship opportunities, and online donations are available at [www.ensf.org](http://www.ensf.org). For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Yoseph Teklemariam at [yoseph@ensf.org](mailto:yoseph@ensf.org)

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