

"Alix was pretty amazing, right now she's the number-one 13-year-old in the country and she qualified for Team Canada as a first-year K2 skier for the Whistler Cup event," said PGASR head coach Michael Stratton.

"It's a bit of overachievement, for sure. I'm not really that surprised because I've seen the flashes of brilliance in training, just to put it together in a race of this level, that was the uncertainty and she definitely stepped up. That first run in the slalom was some of the best I've ever seen her ski."

She had already locked up a spot in Whistler Cup as the top female K2 skier but her medal win cinched the Team Canada berth and the perks that come with that. She checked into a Whistler hotel with the team Sunday night and will get three days of training with the team before the races begin with a super-G on Friday. Giant slalom and slalom races are scheduled for the weekend.

Earlier in the week at Silver Star, Wells placed fifth in kombi (super-G and slalom) event, eighth in the giant slalom and 11th in the super-G. Wells placed sixth overall.

"She kept building momentum throughout the week, getting better and better," said Stratton. "It was her first time at a national championships event and she showed a lot of character and maturity the way she handled the whole thing and kept improving."

Mikaela Gairns and Aaron Van Delft of the Prince George club will join Wells on the slopes at Whistler Cup, competing in the K1 (11-and-12-year-old) class. Last year at the K1 event, Wells placed as high as fifth.

Peak placing

Local skier takes key third

Ted Clarke
Citizen staff

Alix Wells picked a fine time to win her first national medal in alpine skiing.

Not only did she collect a cherished bronze souvenir of her downward plunges in the slalom event at the President's Choice K2 national championships at Silver Star (near Vernon), but it also gave Wells a spot on Team Canada for this weekend's Whistler Cup international event.

"The slalom isn't my best event and I just went in trying to do my best and I did, so it felt good," said Wells. "It's really exciting to make (the Canadian K2 team), that was a surprise."

Wells was second in the first slalom run and seventh in her second run.

"After the first run I knew I could make it, but it was nerve-racking," she said.

Instead of coming home after Friday's race, the 13-year-old Prince George Alpine Ski Racers (PGASR) team member drove with her father Ian to Vancouver, where she'll be based all this week training on the nine-female, nine-male Canadian team.