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TEAM **NOVUS**



PRESS RELEASE

Team Novus Initiates Development Programme

Team Novus, the international speed skating collective established last season, is launching its own development programme. The initiative has been designed together with the Belgian and British skating federations, while also warmly welcoming skaters from other countries.

Team Novus had a successful inaugural season. All skaters qualified for the A-division in the World Cups, securing various medals in the process. During the World Single Distances Championships at Thialf, all skaters achieved top-8 rankings in their favoured events, with a silver medal for Vanessa Herzog (Austria) in the 500 meters and a bronze medal for Cornelius Kersten (Great Britain) in the 1000 meters.

By establishing its own development programme, Team Novus addresses the requests from various smaller skating nations and caters to the need for progression towards the Novus elite team in the future. The Belgian Skating Federation (KBSF) was the first to engage in discussions about this new initiative, and the British Ice Skating federation (BIS) quickly joined. Annelies Dom, Technical Director of the Flemish Skating Union, explains why:

"Throughout the past season, we had an extremely positive experience collaborating with Team Novus. They have been a reliable partner that played a crucial role in the development of our skaters Sandrine Tas and Mathias Vosté. Their personalised approach and the tools developed by Team Novus for effective remote guidance have captured our interest to entrust our talents to them, focusing their development towards the World Cup level."

Jon Eley, Head of Performance at British Ice Skating, has a similar view. "A few years ago, we charted a course to send British long track skaters to the Olympic Games. Ellia Smeding and Cornelius Kersten made huge steps this past season, with Cornelius' fantastic bronze medal at the World Single Distances Championships as a highlight. We're ahead of the schedule we set out. That level of confidence compels us to entrust our talents to Team Novus as well."

The development team currently comprises seven skaters. Representing Belgium are Laurens Berge, Robbe Beelen, Daan van der Elst, and Fran Vanhoutte, and for Great Britain, Samuel Morris. Additionally, French skaters Germain Deschamps and Marine Balanant are joining the team. It has not been ruled out that more skaters may join the team this season.



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Head Coach Daniel Greig is excited about the programme's launch. "Over the past months, we have further refined our programme's content. With a complete coaching staff, including former world and Olympic champion Michel Mulder playing a pivotal role in the development programme, and our exclusive tools enabling remote individual guidance, we believe we can elevate the new group's performance quickly. This programme marks a significant milestone towards our objective of making competitive speed skating more accessible and international."

Note for Editors, Not for Publication

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