



Australian Biathlon - MEDIA RELEASE

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HOT ON THE TRACKS TO VANCOUVER 2010 WINTER OLYMPICS



Mark Raymond



Alex Almoukov

The countdown is on for the first biathlon event at Vancouver in February 2010.

Two Australian athletes are vying for the one spot to represent Australia, in the sport which combines the arduous demands of cross-country skiing, with precision target shooting.

Mark Raymond, 30, and Alex Almoukov, 19, are in earnest training for the 10 km Sprint (Men) and the 20 km Individual (Men) events. This will be the debut Olympic appearance for whichever candidate makes the team.

Mark, from Alexandra VIC, has been training in Obertilliach Austria since last month in preparation for the European World Cup events. His Australian coach Paul Connor will join him shortly for the final stages of Olympic preparation. Mark first competed internationally in biathlon in 2003.

Alex, from Berridale NSW, has been training with his coach and father Nick in their home country of Russia. The 2009 season was Alex's first year competing internationally in biathlon and also in cross-country racing.

Mark and Alex will find out mid-January who will be going to Vancouver in 2010. Meanwhile, the training continues and the ABA wished them well in their endeavours.

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