

SPORTS

"Quote/unquote"

'I am thrilled and speechless after this great moment.'

— Jake MacNeil... see story below

Hard work pays off for MacNeil, Richards

By EAMONN MAHER

Staff Writer

Georgetown's Jake MacNeil and his partner, Andrew Richards of London, sealed their spot in the beach volleyball competition for the 2014 Youth Olympic Games in China with a thrilling 2-1 victory over a U.S. team over the weekend in Puerto Rico.

Representing Canada, MacNeil and Richards, who went undefeated in their three outings during the preliminary phase of the NORCECA Central Zone Boys' Qualification Tournament on Saturday, arrived into the decisive contest after another three-set battle with Mexico's Luis Ramos and Jesus Rodriguez 2-1 (21-14, 23-25, 15-13) in the semifinals.

"I am thrilled and speechless after this great moment," an emotional MacNeil said afterward.

"We won the trials in Canada six months ago to come to this tournament and we have been training very hard since then. The work hard has paid off."

Just a couple of weeks after his Georgetown District High School senior boys' indoor volleyball team lost in the gold medal match at the Ontario quad-A championships in Mississauga, MacNeil said after that loss that winning the event in Puerto Rico would be the highlight of what's already been an impressive career.

"I never thought this thing was going to be possible," added Richards.

"It is like a dream representing our country in the Nanjing Games and I want to give credit to my partner, my coaches and my parents."

The 2014 Youth Olympic Games will take place in Nanjing, China, Aug. 16-28.



Andy Melo (left) and Kyle Sharpe of the Stewarttown Stingers reach for the gym ceiling in an effort to block this CH Norton return during their HDSB Tier I boys' preliminary-round volleyball match on Thursday at Milton District High School. The Stingers were eliminated from the eight-team tournament with a 2-0 loss to Norton, but Centennial's Chargers downed that Burlington school 2-0 to earn the Halton championship.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Chargers win Halton Tier I title

Georgetown's Centennial Chargers defeated previously unbeaten CH Norton of Burlington in two straight sets (25-17, 25-19) to win the Halton District School Board's Tier I boys' elementary volleyball championship in Milton last week.

The Chargers, who had dropped just one set in four matches Thursday leading up to that evening's final at Milton District High School, were able to neutralize Norton's towering up-front trio, who had swept the Stewarttown Stingers out of

the preliminary round earlier on.

It was Centennial's fifth Halton Tier I boys' title since 2003.

In the Tier I girls' playdowns at Craig Kielburger S.S. in Milton, Stewarttown placed first in the preliminary round pool play with a 5-1 record, but the Stingers were upset 25-21, 20-25, 15-11 in the semifinals by Milton's Chris Hadfield, which went on to defeat Burlington Central for the championship in three sets.

• See page 32 for photo



London, Ont.'s Andrew Richards (left) and Jake MacNeil of Georgetown celebrate after winning NORCECA Central Zone Boys' Qualification Tournament on Saturday in Puerto Rico, beating an American duo for the gold medals.

Source FIVB

Skates Alive

Etan Rutherford of Acton participates in the Pre-Preliminary Development Men's class of the Skate Canada Skates Alive figure skating competition held recently at the Acton Arena. It's the 50th anniversary of the Acton Skating Club and they'll be celebrating the holiday season with a special Skate With Santa event on Thursday, Dec. 19 from 6-7 p.m., followed by hot chocolate and treats.

Photo by Ray Lavender



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