

# Four Skate Oakville members competing at provincials this weekend

Skate Oakville will send four skaters in three disciplines to the Skate Ontario STARSkate provincial championships March 15-16 in Wellington.

The pre-juvenile dance team of Shelby Sondej and Keith Dinda, pre-juvenile under-11 men's skater Eugene Zhang and pre-juvenile U14 women's skater Natasha Beaudoin earned trips to provincials by winning medals at the recent Central Ontario STARSkate sectional championships in Brampton.

The four-skater contingent is Skate Oakville's largest group in recent memory to qualify for provincials.

Sondej, 10, and Dinda, 9, posted new personal-best scores at sectionals to win silver. The duo, under the instruction of Skate Oakville competitive dance director Mark Bradshaw and his team of coaches, is competing in its debut season at the pre-juvenile level and its third season together overall.

Zhang also earned a personal-best score

at sectionals, earning a bronze in freeskate. Zhang, in his first year at the pre-juvenile level, is coached by Kathy Zhakos.

Beaudoin earned silver in Brampton, adding to a bronze medal she earned at a competition earlier this season. She is coached by Peggy Ward.

Also earning medals at sectionals were the juvenile dance teams of Celine Dubroy-McArdle and Timuray Gokdemir (silver) and Kaitlyn Chubb and Alexander Moses (bronze). Both Bradshaw-coached teams set personal bests at the event, which was not a qualifier for provincials.

Taylor Mackey (fourth, pre-juvenile U14), Julianne Li (fifth, juvenile U11), Elisa Guiliani (fourth, pre-preliminary STARSkate Flight 4), Timuray Gokdemir (fifth, junior bronze STARSkate), Heather Martin (fourth, gold STARSkate) and Samantha Heard (fifth, gold STARSkate) were Skate Oakville's other top-five finishers in Brampton.



Natasha Beaudoin

## Top scorers at OFSAA returning next year

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Lotanna Obi was the Cavaliers' top scorer in three of their five games, including a 23-point outing in a tournament-opening 77-64 win over Englehart. Jeremy Groot (21 points), Carter Smith (19) and Zach Moll (17) paced King's in an 80-47 win over North Middlesex in the quarter-finals, a game the Cavaliers led 34-11 after one quarter.

Smith had 17 points in the loss to O'Gorman and Obi scored 20 against St. Basil's.

Obi, Groot and Smith will be back next season, but the Cavaliers will lose Moll, post player Reaves Christie and five other seniors to graduation.

"I don't expect us to take a step back (next year)," said Bulthuis, whose team won the provincial Christian high school championship and the Halton Tier 2 title this season. "Those guys (who are graduating) will definitely be missed, but the program is in good shape right now."

—Jon Kuiperij

Li recently represented Skate Oakville at the Ontario Winter Games in Orillia, finishing ninth in the juvenile U11 women's division. Li, coached by Lee Varteressian and Skate Oakville competitive director Michelle

Leigh, clinched a spot at the Games by finishing third at a qualifier in November.

—Beaudoin photo by Danielle Earl, Special to the Beaver

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