

Oakville resident Zachary Gallant carries the puck for Team Ontario during men's hockey action at the recent Canada Winter Games. Gallant scored an empty-netter in the gold-medal game to clinch Ontario's 3-1 win over Alberta. Local defenceman Ian Blacker was also on the Ontario squad.

| photo by
Shawn Haines —
courtesy of
Canada Winter
Games



Local hockey players help Ontario to national title

Oakville's Zachary Gallant and Ian Blacker helped Ontario defeat Alberta 3-1 Saturday to win men's hockey gold at the Canada Winter Games in Prince George, B.C.

Gallant provided the game-clinching marker, scoring into an empty net late in the third period to give Ontario a 3-0 lead. A forward with the Greater Toronto Hockey League's Mississauga Rebels, Gallant finished the tournament with two goals and three assists in six games.

Blacker, who plays defence for the South Central Triple A minor midget Brampton 45s, drew an assist in Ontario's 5-2 semifinal win over Quebec Friday.

The men's hockey triumph marked the fourth event in which Oakville athletes won gold at the Games. Snowboarder Griffin Haines won the men's parallel giant slalom, while skiers Robert Andison (men's freestyle dual moguls) and Brianna Macdonald (women's alpine giant slalom) also finished atop the podium.

Mariana Colussi-Pelaez was part of Ontario's silver-winning women's gymnastics team. The Oakville Gymnastics Club product was sixth on beam, seventh on uneven bars and 12th all-around in individual competition.

Natalie Walker added bronze in women's figure skating, posting the top score in the free skate (59.19 points) to edge Alberta's Jolie Chiem by 0.48 points for third overall.

Other notable performances by Oakville residents during the final week of the Games included a fifth-place effort by Riley Kilmer-Choi (men's snowboarding parallel giant slalom) and an eighth-place showing by speed skater Erin Stewart (3,000-metre relay).

Earlier in the Games, Macdonald claimed silver in women's alpine skiing Super G; Will Kornya collected bronze and Griffin Copp was fourth in the men's alpine skiing Super G; and Lindsay Agnew, Madison Field, Sarah McDonnell and Kristin O'Neill earned silver with the Ontario women's hockey team.

Blakelock student wins two gold at OFSAA swimming

Aquinas swimmer also wins race, Oakville Trafalgar seventh overall

T.A. Blakelock's William Dixon claimed a pair of gold medals while St. Thomas Aquinas student Panos Papangelakiwi also won an event at this week's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations provincial high school swimming championships in Etobicoke.



Dixon won both the open men's 100-metre butterfly and 100m freestyle by approximately one-quarter of a second. Papangelakiwi's victory came in the open men's 200m freestyle, when he reached the wall 62 one-hundredths of a second faster than the second-place finisher.

Silver medals were earned by Blakelock's Taja McLean (14-under women's 50m freestyle) and Abbey Park's Osborn Zhang (men's 100m breaststroke).

Bennett Ho of Iroquois Ridge and Omar Lozano of Aquinas both won two bronze medals. Ho placed third in the open men's 100m butterfly and 50m freestyle, while Lozano earned his medals in the 15-over men's 50m butterfly and 100m backstroke.

Other individuals to collect bronze were Abbey Park's Sam Djurfeldt (14-under men's 50m butterfly) and Oakville Trafalgar's Alex Hayman (15-over 100m breaststroke).

Hayman was also part of OT's two bronze-winning relay teams for OT (15-over men's 4x50m freestyle and 4x50m medley).

OT finished third in the senior men's team standings and seventh overall at the meet, which was won easily by Halton rival Georgetown District.

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