

# Kantor is in full time training with national volleyball squad

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To make matters worse, he came home to the national team tryouts and blew out his shoulder.

One good thing that came out of it, he said, is that he became "close to God — that was really valuable to me as a person."

He spent the summer rehabilitating his shoulder, and soon all the struggle and hard work paid off.

The national team coach "called me back and asked me to come out and train with them. I guess he liked what he saw and invited me to go to a tournament that fall and ever since then I've been on the team."

For the 1997-98 season he signed on with a team from Belgium.

"It was tough for different reasons. The team ran out of money."

This, understandably, cut into the team's training commitments and it eventually finished second last, relegated out of the division.

Back on Canadian soil, he solidified his spot on the Canadian team with a good training camp in May of '98.

Later that year, he went back over to Europe for his third tour of duty and finally met with both personal and, more importantly, team success in the 1998-99 season which wrapped up this past spring.

"It was a good team, everyone was professional. No one was working at another job or going to school. Volleyball wasn't a second interest. We had a real good coach. We trained hard, twice a day. The atmosphere was much more geared to my approach."

The team finished 4th in the 12-team league. "It was a pretty good finish for us."

The team was also a finalist in the Spanish League Cup playdowns which qualified them into this season's European Cup competition.

Kantor, however, will not be with them.

The lead-up to the 2000 Olympics has already begun and Kantor is playing for Canada. And at a pay-cut.

But, quite frankly, he doesn't see it as an issue. He's not living high off the hog at the national training centre in Winnipeg but he gets enough training money to put a roof over his head (very important in Winnipeg in the winter), some food in the fridge and, more importantly, pursue his life long dream.

"I wouldn't consider it a real sacrifice because I'm playing for Canada. Ever since I started playing volleyball, that was my goal, and my dream was to play for Canada at the Olympics. Right now I'm going for that, so I'm happy."

Over the next several months Canada basically has three shots to qualify for the 2000 Olympics, all of them formidable.

The first one comes at next month's world championships in Tokyo where the top three teams advance.

It would be a real shocker if Canada locked up a spot at this one.

"It will be difficult," conceded Kantor.

Actually, it would be about as difficult as Canada finishing in the top three at the world rugby championships now under way.

The second chance to qualify — and the one the Canadian team is counting on — is at the Continental Cup which runs in Winnipeg, beginning in early January.

"It won't be much of a millennium party," quipped Kantor.

## Close road win in Guelph

Last Saturday, the Bell Expressview Oakville Rangers Novice A team travelled to Guelph to face the Guelph Junior Storm.

The Rangers came away with a 2-1 win after a tight three periods of hockey. Difficult ice conditions made for a more challenging game.

The first period ended scoreless after an exchange of shots. Early in the second, Michael McGilvery hit Taylor Ziesman with a tremendous pass that was handled perfectly. Taylor put the puck over the Guelph goalie's shoulder for a lead that would not be given up. Later in the period, McGilvery again delivered a nice pass, this time to Brian Coules who scored Oakville's second goal.

Oakville kept up the pressure throughout the game but were stopped by good goaltending.

Matthew Lynett and Max Mihaichuk made several nice defensive stops for the Rangers.

The Bell Expressview Rangers next play the Arthur Optimists with weekend tournament action in Toronto.

**'We've been training twice a day, six hours a day, six days a week'**

- David Kantor

"It's our zone," he explained. "North America, Central America and the Caribbean."

Only the top team qualifies from this event, said team spokesman John Blacher.

What the Canadian team is really hoping for is that if they can't pull off an improbable top-three finish at next month's world championships, that Cuba can.

And that would mean January's Continental Cup in Winnipeg could go ahead without Cuba, leaving Canada and the U.S. as the pre-tournament favourites to battle it out for the lone spot.

There is a last chance qualifier in Europe in June. Twelve teams will be divided into three four-team divisions with the three division winners gaining Olympic berths. But Canada doesn't want it to come down to this, said Kantor.

Canada should prove to be battle ready, he said.

They raised eyebrows in the elite super 12-team World League this past summer, when they opened at home with a split with Brazil and Spain and swept both matches from Holland. The road, however, didn't prove quite as hospitable. In Brazil, as expected, they lost both games to even their record at 4-4. They then split with Holland to move to 5-5 which set up a key match against Spain, with the winner locking up second place (Brazil earned first place) and the final playoff berth, which carried with it at least a \$600,000 payday.

The first match went the limit before Spain finally prevailed in five sets (23-25, 25-22, 26-28, 26-24, 16-14).

"We were ahead 13-11 in the fifth set and we lost 16-14," said Kantor, the disappointment still apparent. "That took a lot out of us, I think."

Canada, which could still have advanced by winning 3-1 or better in the second match, went down 3-0.

Still, not bad for a team which snuck into the World League after scooping up the last qualifying position by finishing 12th at the world championships.

This taste of success whet their appetite and Kantor said they're working hard to earn their seat at the Olympic table.

Basically since this past May, he said, "we've been training twice a day, six hours a day, six days a week."

They'll get a good barometer of how they're progressing as they kick off a world cup tune-up tourney — the America's Cup in Florida — next week with basically the same teams that competed in the Pan-Am Games, including Brazil, Cuba and the U.S.

Again, a good payday will be at hand for the top finishers.

After his volleyball career, Kantor intends to put his university education to good use. He graduated from Queen's with a civil engineering degree, specializing in the environmental area.

He's already got his feet wet in this area, taking the summer of 1996 off to work with O'Connor Associates Environmental Inc. in Oakville. He said he "thoroughly enjoyed" it, and looks forward to pursuing it when his international volleyball career comes to a close.

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our goalies when they are given so many short-handed situations."

Buffalo took advantage of the penalties, scoring four power play goals.

Oakville players seemed to be in the penalty box all night.

It was a very rough game with penalties and hard checks.

McDonald felt that his goalies were the ones in the

## Blades suffered from defensive lapse

The Atom BB Oakville Hornets participated in the Red Wing Earlybird Tournament on Sept. 25th and 26th and just fell short of making the finals, in winning one game and tying two.

In the first game against the Stouffville Stars, the Hornets and Stars battled to a 1-1 draw.

Scoring for the Hornets was Sarah Grigor from Bianca Mirabelli and Stephanie Secord.

In game two, the Hornets defeated the

spotlight on Friday, making some great saves.

"Our goalies made some key saves during the game." McDonald commented on the lack of defence in their past few games.

"Our defence has been weak lately. In the last two games, we have allowed a lot of goals.

"Our goals allowed per game is around five right now. We would like it to be around two or three."

Matt Collaton was pulled after the second period, allowing Matt Violin to play goal the third period.

## Undeclared record not good enough to make tourney final

Durham West Lightning 2-1, with the first goal off the stick of Kaitlyn Wheeler, with assists to Tenille Clarke and Melissa Snedden. The go ahead goal was applied by Megan Wanless, from Roxanne Johnson.

Game three had the Hornets up against the undefeated Scarborough Sharks. The Hornets needed a win to advance to the final.

Despite outshooting, the Sharks 22-4 in the game, the Hornets couldn't regis-

ter a goal and wound up tied at 0-0.

The shutout was shared by Charlotte Capaldo and Stephanie Wilson.

While the Hornets did not reach the finals, they controlled much of the three games, outshooting their opposition by a total of 59-16.

The Atom BB Hornets would like to acknowledge their sponsors: Air Canada Vacations, Merritt Goddard, Meray Motors, Royal and Sun Alliance, Halton Chiropractic, and Halton Signs.

## Oakville Soccer Club house league, girls U-9 season wrap-up

**GIRLS UNDER 9-B**  
(Aug. 17)

SCL IMAGING 3 (Kristina Zucchiatti 3); NATS 3 (Kristy Cameron, Melanie Alexander, Danie Atkinson). CONWAY-DAVIS 4 (Jessica Katamay, Julie Rose Pagnotta, Victoria Scullion, Melissa Melville); A.V. SUTTON 0.

HTECH 0; FABTECH 0.  
(Aug. 10)

SCL IMAGING 1 (Kristina Zucchiatti); CONWAY-DAVIS 1 (Julie-Rose Pagnotta).

FABTECH 3 (Chrissy McConachie 2, Natalie Stong); NATS 0.

HTECH 2 (Christina D'Ippolito, Holly Smith); SUTTON 1 (Hilary Juras).

(Aug. 3)

SCL IMAGING 1 (Kristina Zucchiatti); A. VENT-DITTI SUTTON 1 (Emily Brown).

FABTECH 4 (Chloe St. Cyr, Chrissy McConchie, Carly Dagg, Natalie Stong); CONWAY-DAVIS 1 (Julie-Rose Pagnotta).

HTECH 2 (Anna Lubinsky, Alexandra Antidormi); NATS 0.

(July 20)

CONWAY-DAVIS 2 (Maureen Shea, Julie Rose Pagnotta); HTECH 0.

NATS 3 (Victoria Stott, Hannah Mandel, Stephanie Scarpone); A.V. SUTTON 0.

SCL IMAGING 1 (Kristina Zucchiatti); FABTECH 0.

(July 13)

CONWAY-DAVIS 3 (Julie-Rose Pagnotta 2, Melissa Melville); NATS 2 (Melanie Alexander 2).

FABTECH 2 (Monika Liapczynski, Natalie Stong); A.V. SUTTON 2 (Lauren Jarvis 2).

HTECH 1 (Christina D'Ippolito); SCL IMAGING 0.

**GIRLS UNDER 9-C**  
(Aug. 18)

FICEL MARKETING 4 (Alexandra Marquis 2, Tania Horvat, Colleen Doherty); PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPER 1 (Leah Franco).

PERMANENT SEARCH 3 (Tanisha Webby 2, Rachel Vuckson); GHOSTBUSTERS 1 (Lisa Oikawa).

JACK ASTORS 4 (Rosie Paladino, Alexandra Williams, Christina Shaw, Stephanie Salema); BELL & MACKENZIE 0.

POPSICLE 2 (Melinda Ashe, Michaela Wathen); SPARROWS 0.

(Aug. 11)

GHOSTBUSTERS 5 (Ashley Muller 4, Lisa Oikawa); BELL & MACKENZIE 1 (Mikaela Rodgers).

PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPER 3 (Jaime Neefs 3); POPSICLE 2 (Katelyn Walker, Sharon Jassar).

JACK ASTORS 7 (Alexandra Williams 3, Christina Shaw 2, Kathryn Reinhardt 2); PERMANENT SEARCH 5 (Tanisha Webby 3, Shanon Egli, Jennifer Quirk).

(Aug. 4)

GHOSTBUSTERS 2 (Lisa Oikawa, Monika Punks); POPSICLES 1 (Katelyn Witmeyer).

BELL & MACKENZIE 1 (Mikaela Rodgers); SPARROWS 0.

PERMANENT SEARCH 3 (Tanisha Webby, Alyssa Molfetta, Cassandra Nudo); PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPER 0.

FICEL MARKETING 2 (Alexandra Marquis, Sarah Gryschak); JACK ASTORS 1 (Danielle Cook-Richings).

(July 21)

FICEL MARKETING 6 (Alexandra Marquis 3, Raylene Cormier, Colleen Doherty, Sara Sorrentino); GHOSTBUSTERS 0.

PERMANENT SEARCH 4 (Tanisha Webby 4, Shanon Egli, Jennifer Quirk, Rachel Vuckson); SPARROWS 0.

BELL & MACKENZIE 3 (Chelsie Figueira, Sandy Trujillo, Bridget Stauton); PRICEWATERHOUSE COOPER 0.

**League Winners**

Division A, Puma (Coach: Mario Peluso)

Division B, Htech (Coach: Allan Hrynysyshyn)

Division C, Permanent Search (Coach: Alan Bower)

**League Cup**

Division A, Puma

Division B & C Conway David Fiel Marketing

**Scoring Leaders**

Division A, Cassandra Russo

Division B, Kristina Zucchiatti

Division C, Tanisha Webby

**GOLD AWARDS**

**DIVISION A**

TEAM NAME — TORSTAR

Most Valuable Player: Daniela Gysler

Best Offensive Player: Sarah Dulmage

Best Defensive Player: Katie Rubino/Marla Campbell

Most Improved Player: Monica Maher

Most Dedicated Player: Siobhan Morrison

TEAM NAME — Imax

Most Valuable Player: Caroline Davies

Best Offensive Player: Emile Clark

Best Defensive Player: Genevieve Panabaker

Most Improved Player: Amanda Paul

Most Dedicated Player: Kristen Anderson

TEAM NAME — Puma

Most Valuable Player: Cassandra Russo

Best Offensive Player: Laura Pendlebury

Best Defensive Player: Ingrid Merry

Most Improved Player: Alene Vanderhoop

Most Dedicated Player: Melanie Vanderhoop

TEAM NAME — Forever Baskets

Most Valuable Player: Katarine Kapusin/Tracy Evans

Best Offensive Player: Patricia Ellerson

Best Defensive Player: Amanda Pope

Most Improved Player: Kaitlyn Vincent

Most Dedicated Player: Nicole Spencer

TEAM NAME — Eurostar

Most Valuable Player: Sarah Longo

Best Offensive Player: Lindsey Brown

Best Defensive Player: Brittney Riendeau

Most Improved Player: Lauren Massie/Natalie Thompson

Most Dedicated Player: Alicia Ronca

TEAM NAME — Dr. Gwartz

Most Valuable Player: Danielle Ganassini

Best Offensive Player: Lisa Ryan

Best Defensive Player: Isabelle Treyvaud

Most Improved Player: Tassi Sewell

Most Dedicated Player: Candice Reggi

TEAM NAME — Gentry Environmental

Most Valuable Player: Lauren Skinner

Best Offensive Player: Dana Scanzano

Best Defensive Player: Allison Bennett

Most Improved Player: Megan French

Most Dedicated Player: Jennifer Paquette

TEAM NAME — NGTV

Most Valuable Player: Sloane George

Best Offensive Player: Kylie Saso

Best Defensive Player: Rachel Duban

Most Improved Player: Stephanie Maganja

Most Dedicated Player: Carain Kalata

**DIVISION B**

SCL IMAGING

Most Valuable Player: Kristie Zucchiatti

Best Offensive: Alexandra Lyn

Best Defensive: Alexandra Mason

Most Improved: Jessi Pacheco

Most Dedicated: Marissa MacDonald

CONWAY-DAVIS

Most Valuable Player: Emily Frost

Best Offensive: Julie Rose Pagnotta

Best Defensive: Nicole Nyholt

Most Improved: Holly Foran

Most Dedicated: Melissa Melville

ALBERT VENDITTI SUTTON

Most Valued Player: Lauren Jarvis

Best Offensive: Emily Brown

Best Defensive: Lauren Tracey

Most Improved: Lindsay Powell

Most Dedicated: Roxanne Malby

HTECH

Most Valued Player: Anna Lubinsky

Best Offensive: Alexandra Antidormi

Best Defensive: Jacqueline May

Most Improved: Christina D'Ippolito

Most Dedicated: Holli Hrynysyshyn

FABTECH

Most Valued Player: Natalie Stong

Best Offensive Player: Stephanie Harrison

Best Defensive Player: Amy Maynard

Most Improved Player: Stephanie Piper

Most Dedicated Player: Margaret Jakubowski

NATS

Most Valued Player: Danie Atkinson

Best Offensive Player: Hannah Mandel

Best Defensive Player: Melanie Alexander

Most Improved Player: Julia Buckner

Most Dedicated Player: Jade Hood

**DIVISION C**

SPARROWS

Most Valued Player: Alyssa Cangemi

Best Offensive Player: Samantha Manning

Best Defensive Player: Jacelyn Pender

Most Improved Player: Pamela Argue

Most Dedicated Player: Elaine Skene

POPSICLE

Most Valued Player: Katelyn Walker

Best Offensive Player: Chrissine Ottoni

Most Improved Player: Michaela Wathen

Most Dedicated Player: Melinda Ash

PERMANENT SEARCH GROUP

Most Valued Player: Tanisha Webby

Best Offensive Player: Cassandra Nudo

Best Defensive Player: Alyssa Molfetta

Most Improved Player: Shannon Egli

Most Dedicated Player: Megan Holbrook

GHOSTBUSTERS

Most Valued Player: Heidi Dyck

Best Offensive Player: Ashley Muller

Best Defensive Player: Monika Punks</