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Belleville's Sarah Thompson displays the four gold medals she won in her Masters Blind division at the Ontario Games for the Physically Disabled last weekend in Bram-

ton. Sarah will now represent Ontario at the national games in Sudbury in August.

(Photo by Ady Vos)

One record, 4 gold medals

BY ADY VOS
Sports staff

Sarah Thompson didn't begin competing in the Games for the Physically Disabled until just three years ago but already she has a cabinet full of trophies and medals.

On the weekend Thompson, competing in the Blind Masters Division at the Ontario Games for the Physically Disabled in Brampton, won four gold medals and set one Canadian record, to earn a berth in the National finals in Sudbury next month.

Thompson now has 26 medals and trophies since she began competing less than three years ago.

To qualify for the National finals a competitor must win at least three events plus set at least one Canadian record.

Thompson set her record in the 3,000 metre walk with a time of 21.35.3.

She also placed first in the shot with a put of 5.99 metres, first in the discus with a throw of 13.86m and first in the standing long jump with a distance of 1.59 m. All Thompson's marks were personal bests.

Thompson was also scheduled to compete in the 100m but since she

had already qualified for the Nationals she decided to withdraw from that event.

Last year Thompson competed in all four events at the Nationals and placed first in each one.

"It was very hot and the heat was definitely taking its toll on the athletes especially the wheelies and amputees," said Thompson.

Thompson heads for Ottawa Aug. 4 to begin a 10-day training session for the Nationals which will be in Sudbury August 14-20.

Top athletes at the Nationals qualify for the World Games.

Thompson says the most difficult part of competing in the various Games is the expense since athletes are pretty well on their own as far as paying bills go.

Thompson has had financial help from the Kinettes and Lions club in the past but she says she's not about to go begging for funds to help pay her expenses.

"Who do you ask? I don't want to go around begging for money. I'm sure I'll make out fine," she says.

Thompson, who was the top blind master at the National Games last year, is one of 30 blind athletes eligible for the National Games.

Thompson, Sarah