

V3-07

Page 20

Two-time Olympic bronze medallist  
Laryssa Biesenthal comes home  
to visit family in Walkerton

2000



Double Olympic bronze medallist Laryssa Biesenthal recently returned home to Walkerton with her newest acquisition — a bronze from the 2000 Sydney Summer Games.

GBTW photo by Craig Greenham

had some familiar fans nearby. Her parents, Dave and Carolyn Biesenthal travelled to Australia for the event and were able to witness their daughter's medal-winning performance.

"It's been a tough summer for them and I think it's nice for them and I think it's nice for them to get away from Walkerton for a bit and have something happy to finish it off," said Laryssa.

Walkerton residents displayed their pride in their local Olympian's achievements in public fashion Sunday. Numerous signs could be seen among the contingent of Walkerton residents at the Toronto Blue Jays Ball game, proclaiming their town "home to an Olympic Bronze Medalist."

Walkerton's Laryssa Biesenthal committee is planning a celebration of her accomplishments some time in October.

Plans are still in the organization stage, but committee member Ellen Schmalz said "there will definitely be a parade," followed by a celebration at a yet-to-be-determined location.

The committee will present Biesenthal with a wide range of gifts donated by local businesses and funds raised through a local campaign to support her Olympian efforts.

With files from Toronto Star News Services.

## Biesenthal captures second bronze medal

BY PATRICK RAFTIS  
HERALD-TIMES

Special to SCN

Walkerton native Laryssa Biesenthal is now a two-time Olympic medalist.

Biesenthal was a member of the Women's Eights rowing team which earned

a bronze medal in the event finals Saturday night.

The Canadians placed third with a time of 6:11:58. Romania took the gold with a time of 6:06:44, while the Netherlands (6:09:39) earned silver.

For Biesenthal, who was part of the bronze-medal

winning Canadian women's quad team at the Atlanta Games in 1996, the performance kept an incredible streak alive. She has won a medal at every international competition she has been involved in since 1995.

The Women's Eights  
(See Biesenthal on Page 20)

## Biesenthal

(Continued from Page 19)

team captured Canada's only medal in rowing, an area of competition that has been a traditional Canadian strength.

With the eyes of the world on the race, Biesenthal also knew she