

SPORTS & LEISURE

Orange suits McCabe's court & scholastic talent

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

When it comes to recruiting, Syracuse University women's volleyball head coach Jing Pu spends a lot more time looking for talent north of the border than his NCAA Division I peers.

Canadian players have usually been at the forefront during Pu's successful 15-year run as coach for the Orange, which included three straight Big East titles from 2006-08.

Georgetown's Lindsay McCabe, a 6-foot-1 middle position player and captain of Team Ontario's 2009 under-17 side, is among Pu's signings for the freshmen class of 2010.

"(Pu) calls Canada his little secret reservoir of talent," said the Grade 12 Georgetown District High School student, currently carrying a 95 per cent average in the classroom.

"I'm so excited about playing for the coach and that was a big deciding factor in where I wanted to go. We went to see a Syracuse game and I just loved his coaching style. And to be in that atmosphere just blew my mind. I've been down to a couple of Canadian national team games and it can't even compare. It's such a big deal down there with the crowds they get and I can't wait because I'm one of those players who plays well under pressure."

A 17-year-old biology major and

trombone player in the GDHS band, McCabe's imposing presence at the net and versatility were skills that several NCAA schools came calling about.

She is also a member of the Ontario Volleyball Association's top-ranked under-18 girls' club team, the Georgetown Impact, after winning a Premier Division tournament in St. Catharines last month.

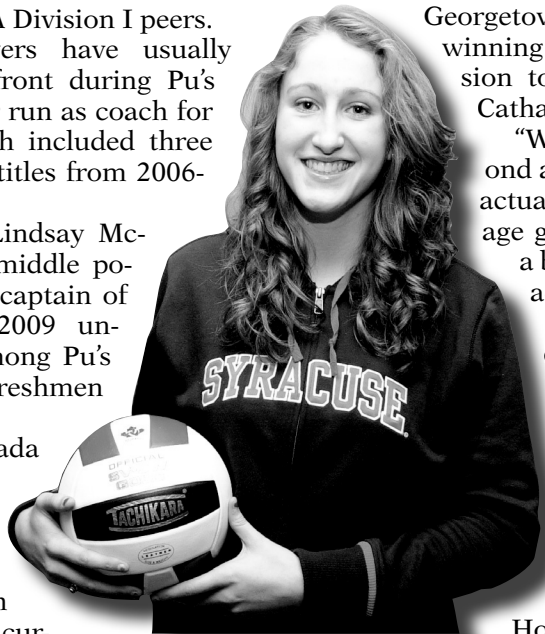
"We've placed second a lot and we never actually won our own age group so that was a big highlight," she added.

"We've really excelled and that's rare for a small club like ours."

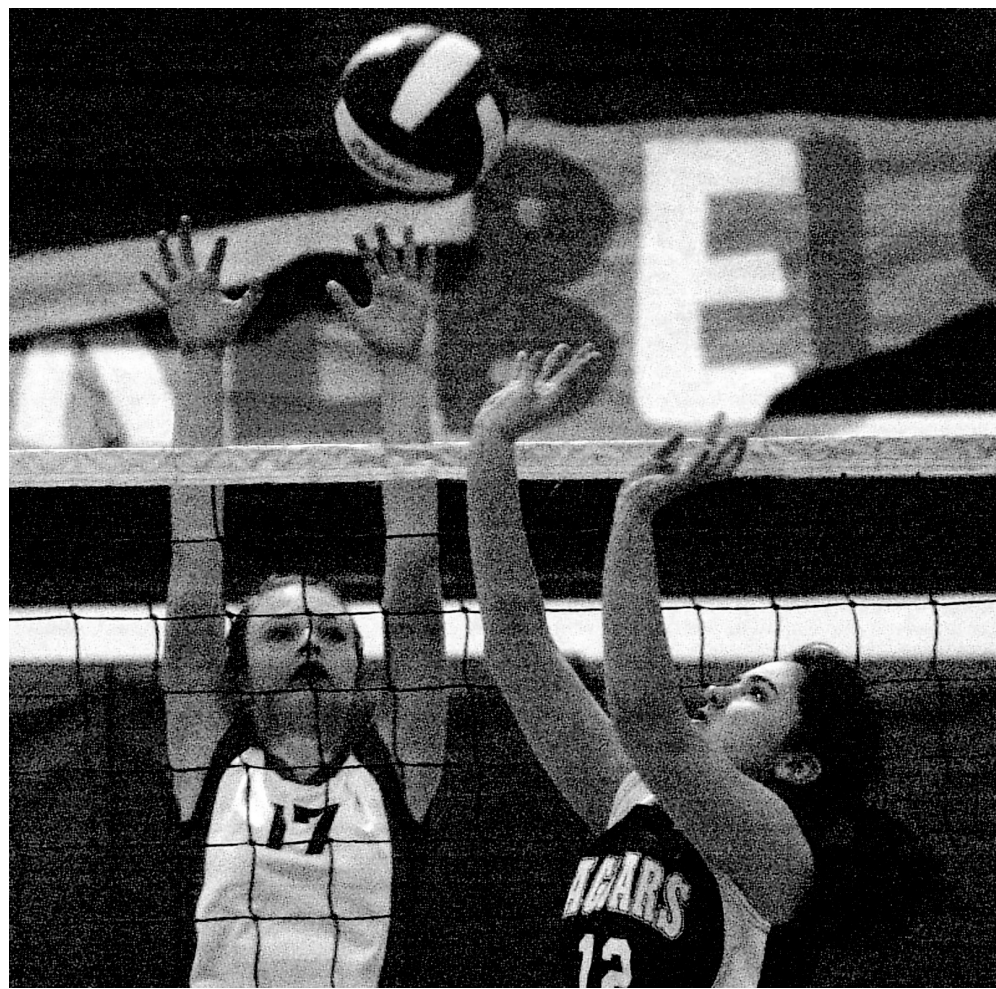
As a Grade 10 student, McCabe played a big part in GDHS's senior girls winning the Golden Horseshoe championship. Then, a back injury kept her on the sidelines last year, but not away from helping coach the Rebel junior girls' squad. She enjoyed it and learned so much that she volunteered again this year.

"I get so much more out of coaching because it shows you a whole other side of the game. I see so many things from the bench where I'll think, 'I should think about that when I'm playing'."

McCabe hopes to be a candidate for Canada's junior national team this year and after graduating plans to pursue a professional volleyball career.



LINDSAY MCCABE



Jacquie Gillmoure (17) of the Georgetown Rebels duels at the net with Christ the King's Kirstie Noltie (12) during their Halton high school junior girls' volleyball matchup Tuesday at Georgetown District High School. The Rebels improved to 4-2 on the season with a straight-set 25-18, 25-14 victory over the Jaguars after dropping their first two matches. In the senior contest, the Rebels also swept Ctk in their best-of-3 match and are now 6-0, the only undefeated team in the AAAA division.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Scutt ranked 2nd in North America

The World Darts Federation recently released its year-end rankings and Georgetown's Chris Scutt is rated second in North America for the open men's category. The 37-year-old roofer finished the 2009 season with 196 points, 14 behind top-ranked North American competitor Darin Young of the U.S. Scutt, who qualified for the World Masters Championships in England this fall for the second time in three years, was listed 33rd in the WDF's global rankings as the top Canadian. His next tournament will be the Quebec Open next weekend.

File photo by Eamonn Maher



Leaf alumni face off with firemen

The Toronto Maple Leaf Alumni Association is putting together a roster to take on the Halton Hills Firefighters on Sunday afternoon in a fundraising game support of Cancer Assistance Services of Halton Hills (CASHh).

Former 50-goal man Gary Leeman

is among those expected to lace up the skates against the firemen.

Doors open at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex at 12:30 p.m. with the game at 1:30 p.m. For tickets call CASHh, 1-800-516-5810. There will also likely be tickets on sale at the door.

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