

Women's recreational loop great for 'fun and fitness'

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"We don't learn a lot, but she's inspiring," said Sydney of her mother's shinny prowess.

"It was a mid-life crisis thing. I didn't play hockey in my life. Watching (daughter) Jenna play, and then with (teammate Jacqueline Laurie) asking me to come out and try it, I figured why not, and it's been so much fun. I haven't died yet," laughed Terrill.

The league consists of some beginners and experienced players such as Laurie, who began playing at age 11 when all-girls' teams were difficult to find. Just over 7,000 girls and women were registered in hockey programs in 1989 and that number has multiplied many times over in the past two decades.

Interest in women's hockey should reach its peak next month at the Winter Olympics in Vancouver when Canada defends its gold-medal achievement from the 2006 Games in Italy and there wasn't much doubt among the younger Twisters about the outcome this time around.

"Canada will win, who else?" stat-

ed Sarah Laurie.

Grace Rylett, one of the founding members of the Twisters 13 years ago who is leaving the organization this spring after a decade as president, is thrilled to see girls carrying on their participation into adulthood. The Twisters also ice a more-competitive intermediate BB team that travels throughout the GTA.

"Karen Harrison (1994 Georgetown Hockey Heritage Award recipient) brought the idea forward seven years ago to have a women's recreational league and she's done a great job as convenor," said Rylett.

"What we found was that after girls were too old to play with the Twisters there was very little available to them. Now, we're sanctioned by the Ontario Women's Hockey Association and playing in an interlocking loop with the Oakville Hornets. It's a great opportunity for fun and fitness and a way to stay involved in hockey."

For Twister mom Melissa Jensen, there was some trepidation at first about signing up for the women's rec league, but some gentle nudging from her kids convinced her to purchase a set of equipment, including



The North Halton Twisters' Girls' Hockey Association took time to recognize some of their mother-daughter organization members at last week's Canadian Women's Hockey League game in Georgetown. Front row (left to right): Kylie & Ashlynn Ricciardi, Madeleine Griffiths, Sarah Laurie, Sydney Terrill, Jenna Terrill. Back row: Sheri Ricciardi, Melissa Jensen, Jacqueline Laurie, Kim Terrill.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

those skates without the pick on the front.

"I was never into sports growing up and I learned to skate on figure skates, but I started to get interested in hockey when my daughter Mad-

eleine started to play after my son had gone through tyke and what-not," said Jensen.

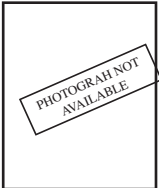
"Once I started, I just loved it, and now I play through the winter and summer."

ATHLETES of the week

Acton High School

Christ the King

G.D.H.S



PHOTOGRAPH NOT AVAILABLE

Christine Bennett Tia McQuarrie David Witezak Hayden Mancini Lindsay McCabe Jenna Veenstra

Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Christine Bennett and Tia McQuarrie. Both are members of the Bearcats girls hockey team, and were recognized in a 6-3 win over E.C. Drury. Bennett, who plays right wing, was chosen for her 3 goals. McQuarrie, on left wing, garnered 2 assists in the same game.

Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are Lindsay McCabe and Jenna Veenstra. Veenstra, a member of the Rebels girls hockey team was selected for her great team spirit and support, a real leader. McCabe, who is a coach for the the junior Rebels girls volleyball team, was chosen for her volunteering and sharing her volleyball knowledge with the school.

Christ the King Catholic High School Athletes of the Week are David Witezak and Hayden Mancini. Witezak, a guard on the senior Jags basketball team, was selected for his 25 points in an overtime win over Assumption. Mancini, a defenseman with the Jaguar's hockey team, was selected for his assist in a 3-0 win over Robert Bateman High School.

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