

SPORTS & LEISURE

Lyons eyes national team spot

By EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

Georgetown's Casey Lyons hopes to be among the 18 players to make the final cut for the Canadian team that will compete in the world under-19 women's field lacrosse championships a year from now in Hannover, Germany.

The 17-year-old midfield/attacker has been training with the national team program since the spring and her name remained on the roster when it was trimmed to 24 from 30 earlier this month.

The final lineup of 18 players is expected to be announced in January after the team plays a series of exhibition games against Ontario university teams and takes another U.S. tour for some "fall ball" contests in October.

"She's been playing since she was three and we have pictures of her playing with little mittens on her hands because no lacrosse gloves would fit her," said mom Cathy Longhurst.

"She'll be fine. We're very confident that she'll make the team."

Lyons is entering her second year at Berkshire prep school near Springfield, Mass., playing lacrosse, hockey and field hockey.

"I want to go to school to play lacrosse and

I still would like to play hockey, but lacrosse is what I'll play in college," she said.

"Berkshire's been great because the student/teacher relationship is so much better. There are only about a dozen students per class and that makes you do better in school. Academics is the big focus and we're at school six days a week, although Saturday is a half day because of game day."

Due to her Team Canada commitments, Lyons has spent a lot of time on a tour bus this summer and hasn't played much for her field lacrosse club team, the Brampton Excelsiors.

Terra Cotta resident Samantha Cock, who also plays her club lacrosse with the Brampton Excelsiors, is vying for a spot on the national under-19 team as well.

The 2011 event will be the first world under-19 championships to be held in Europe. Canada finished fourth at the

2007 tourney in Peterborough after bronze-medal showings in 1999 and 2003.

Lyons has a tough act to follow in her own household as her older brother Kody just earned a Canadian box championship with the Halton Hills Jr. B Bulldogs, for whom her dad Gord served as assistant coach.



CASEY LYONS



Gunned down

Halton Hills Hawks' catcher Maggie Murrins tags out a Kitchener baserunner at home plate during the opening game of the Provincial Women's Softball Association mite division fastpitch championships held at the Georgetown Fairgrounds and Gellert Community Centre earlier this month. The Hawks powered past the Klassics in that matchup 12-2 and ended up placing sixth in the 12-team tournament. Brampton's Tier I Blazers captured the championship, defeating Waterloo 9-7 in the final.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Spencer sixth at Summer Games

Two rounds of 77 helped Georgetown golfer Samantha Spencer finish sixth out of 25 competitors at the Ontario Summer Games in Sudbury.

The 14-year-old Club at North Halton member ended up at 10 over par over 36 holes in the 16-and-under tourney, 18 shots back of winner Brogan

McKinnon of Toronto.

Spencer also placed in a tie for third at the Canadian Junior Golf Association National Championship held at the Copetown Woods Golf Club near Hamilton last week.

She recorded rounds of 82-89-83-78 to finish at +44 in the girls' 11-19 division.

Bigg plans in the works

Limehouse's Holly Bigg will be heading to Canadian under-18 girls' soccer championships this fall after her Erin Mills' under-17 team captured the Ontario Cup title in Vaughan recently.

The Eagles defeated their cross-city rival, Dixie Athletic, 2-1 in the final on penalty kicks for the victory, which came a year after Erin Mills lost to Ajax in the Ontario Cup championship match.

The team will represent Ontario at the Canadian under-18 championships in Mt. Pearl, Nfld. Oct. 6-11.

The 5-foot-8 Bigg is a central defender who was out of action for two months this summer recovering from a knee injury suffered while playing for her Georgetown District High School side.

She missed the Eagles' first two Ontario Cup wins, 3-0 over Kitchener in the opening round and then 4-3 against Oshawa, but returned for the final weekend when Erin Mills beat Niagara Falls 4-0 in the semi-finals and then downed Dixie 4-2 in the shootout.

Bigg wants to follow in her sister Melissa's footsteps and earn a scholarship to a U.S. college. Melissa captured the U18 Ontario Cup in 2005 with the Eagles and went on to play for the University of Cincinnati Bearcats, graduating this past June.



HOLLY BIGG

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