

SPORTS & LEISURE

CtK student to play for Ontario softball squad in Florida

D'Avilar ready for youth tourney

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

A lot of attention will be paid to the World Junior Hockey Championships in Buffalo during the holidays, while Georgetown teen Hayley D'Avilar is involved in another global competition south of the border.

The Grade 10 Christ the King Secondary School student has been selected to play for one of two Ontario teams entered in the International Softball Federation's Youth World Cup tournament in Plant City, Fla. from Dec. 30 to Jan. 5.

It's the first time that the ISF has staged a world championship for the under-16 age group and 23 teams are registered, including 11 from the U.S., Brazil, South Korea, the Philippines, Puerto Rico, Russia and two teams from Manitoba.

"We train all through the winter, so this is nothing new, (but) to play against teams from Korea, Brazil—all over the world—it should be really exciting," said 15-year-old D'Avilar, a centrefielder known to terrorize pitchers and catchers with her speed on the basepaths.

The Provincial Women's Softball Association has been scouting potential players over the past few months and were no doubt impressed with D'Avilar's development.

She led her Oakville under-16 team in stolen bases this past season, but when the Angels didn't qualify for the national bantam championships, D'Avilar was picked up by the Scarbor-

ough Rays' under-18 squad.

The Rays did make the Canadian midget tourney in St. John, N.B. and went undefeated all the way through to the final before bowing out to B.C., but D'Avilar's contributions didn't go unnoticed as she's received letters from several U.S. colleges about possible scholarship opportunities.

"Her biggest strength is her outfield defence because she's very fast, she's able to cover a large part of the field," said Ontario head coach Todd Bannister of Brantford.

"She's a lefthanded batter and is really effective at getting on base with her speed by slap-bunting and once she gets there, she becomes a threat to steal bases and score runs."

Approximately 140 players were on the list of prospects invited to the initial tryout sessions in September and that number was whittled down to the final 26 roster spots for the two Ontario teams that will fly to Florida just after Christmas. D'Avilar is one of only five players with 1995 birth dates to make the team and she'll be eligible to play again in the World Youth Cup if the ISF holds it next year.

"My fielding is my strength because I've worked on it a lot and we have a coach with our Scarborough team who actually just teaches us how to play outfield," she said.

"Most teams don't get that type of coaching."

D'Avilar has also played basketball, volleyball and softball at CtK and will return to the Scarborough under-18 Rays for the 2011 season.



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Photo by Eamonn Maher

This Jaguar can swim

Rea Pavlopoulos of Christ the King Secondary School won both of her races convincingly at last week's Halton North Invitational meet hosted by Bishop Reding of Milton. Pavlopoulos placed first in the senior girls' 100m breaststroke race in a time of one minute, 35.64 seconds, nearly 20 seconds ahead of runner-up and teammate Nikki MacPherson. In the 100m freestyle, Pavlopoulos was over three seconds faster than second-place finisher Emily McTiernan of CtK. The Jaguars were tops in the girls' team standings at the meet and Christ the King finished second in the combined points tally just behind winner Loyola of Oakville.

Photo by Daniel Ho



Urban club seeks players

The Urban Sports Club in Milton has opened online registration at www.urbansports.ca, offering many adult co-ed recreational sports. All sports will begin play the week of Jan. 3.

Female and male players are needed for a new Monday night basketball league.

Recreational and intermediate teams or individuals are needed for a Monday night volleyball league.

Two teams are needed for a floor/ball hockey league in Burlington at Sherwood Forest Centre. Players must be at least 25 years old and you may register as a team or individual.

For more information visit the website, www.urbansports.ca. Interested players may contact Karen at info@urbansports.ca.

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