

SPORTS & LEISURE

Is Gillies fast-tracking his way to the Olympics?

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

At this rate, former Georgetown resident Corey Gillies is going to fast-track his way to the Winter Olympics.

Hurling himself down an icy bobsled track face-first, reaching speeds of about 145 km/h, the recently-turned-15 Gillies has become one of Bobsleigh Canada Skeleton's top young prospects after only being involved in the sport for a year and a half.

Ken and Monique Gillies moved to Calgary in the fall of 2009 in order for son Corey to train at the site of the 1988 Winter Games and the Grade 10 student is already posting times that aren't far off that of adult World Cup competitors.

As the youngest racer in the field of 18, Gillies finished ninth at the World Junior Championships in Utah last week, competing against fellow pilots as old as 23.

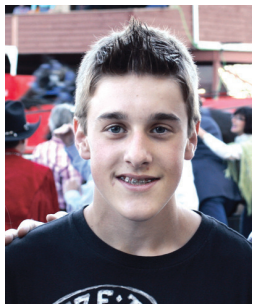
"For sure, that was the best finish of my career and I felt it could have been a lot better," said the former member of the Halton Hills Gymnastics Centre.

"I was sixth after the first run and then on the second, my sled broke and my helmet came (loose), so I was a lot slower than I wanted to be. But it was a great experience."

Gillies is a member of the Slide 2014-18 national

development team and he's set a lofty goal of making the next Winter Olympics in Russia, when he'd be 18, or the following Games in either France, Germany or South Korea.

He is currently in Innsbruck, Austria for a couple of weeks of training with some of the top European competitors his age.



COREY GILLIES

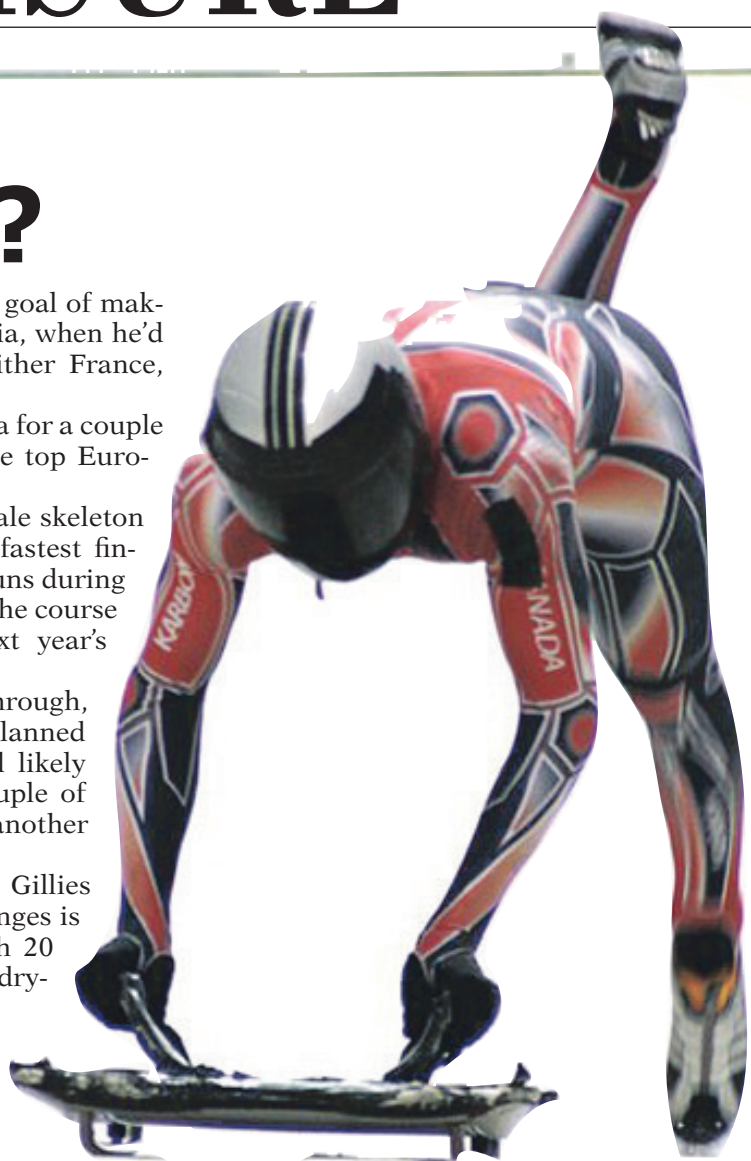
As the lone Canadian male skeleton athlete there, he was the fastest finisher in all three practice runs during his first day of training on the course that will be used for next year's Youth Olympics.

Before this winter is through, Gillies has a training trip planned for Whistler, B.C. and will likely visit Georgetown for a couple of days while heading to another event in Lake Placid, N.Y.

The 5-foot-6, 146-pound Gillies said one of his biggest challenges is just managing his time, with 20 hours a week of on-hill training, his dry-land workouts and school to juggle.

"That's been very hard, trying to get homework done after training and then every night I have to take my sled apart to dry it out and then tape it back together again," he added.

"There's never enough time to get everything done, but it's all worth it."



Christ the King Jaguar Taylor Farkas broke up a rush by Bishop Reding defender Sarah DiGiallonardo during their Halton high school varsity girls' hockey contest Monday at the Alcott Arena. Samantha Green wrestled in the winning goal with only 1:17 left in the third period in CtK's 4-3 victory. Also scoring for the Jags were Hilary Cosmo, Irene Kiroplis and Jessica Hannan. CtK's girls will play a Tier I quarterfinal game away from home next Thursday (Feb. 24).



Photo by Eamonn Maher

High school roundup

CtK posts perfect mark

A 4-1 victory over the previously unbeaten Nelson Lords on Monday afternoon completed a perfect 9-0-0 regular season for the defending Halton Tier I champion Christ the King Jaguars in high school boys' hockey action.

Brendan Krivec scored twice for the first-place Jags, with Dylan Hannan and Cody Gresswell adding single markers.

CtK begins its Halton Secondary School Athletic Asso-

ciation playoffs with a home game today (Thursday) against eighth-place Lester B. Pearson. The back end of the two-game series will also be played at the Alcott Arena on Wednesday, Feb. 23 at 2:45 p.m.

In Tier II play, the Georgetown Rebels posted their 10th straight win including tournaments with a 9-1 trouncing of Milton on Tuesday to place first in the division with a 7-2-1 mark.

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