

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Nyhof nets OCAA MVP

By CHANELLE SEGUIN  
Special to the IFP

During the awards banquet at this year's Ontario Colleges women's volleyball championships, Kelly Nyhof was awarded player of the year, only one of many accolades that probably sit on the shelf at the Nyhof home in Georgetown.

Ironically, the second-year Childhood & Youth Work student at Guelph-Humber said that growing up, she never wanted to play volleyball because her older sister already did.

"I never really wanted to follow in her footsteps and be compared to her because she was so good," said Nyhof. "But I was somewhat forced into by my mom. She made me try out for club teams and my high school team. This gave me the confidence to continue playing."

It's hard to believe Nyhof has only been playing for five years. She has been awarded as a CCAA All-Canadian. Last year she received the Etobicoke Sports Hall of Fame Scholarship, an award given to only four Humber athletes each year.

She has been named to the West Division first team all-star squad more than once at the OCAA championships, and in her rookie season, she was a tournament all-star.

She is a veteran on the team and has helped the Hawks win three consecutive OCAA gold medals. Coach Chris Wilkins has been with her every step of the way. He says Nyhof is a very talented athlete and first recognized her skills during a team trip to Europe last season.

"We were playing against some of the top clubs in Europe and Kelly was scoring against



Christ the King Secondary School graduate Kelly Nyhof is a relative newcomer to volleyball, but the 6-foot-2 middle was named the Ontario Colleges player of the year last week. Photo by Jess Raymond

them and blocking against them, and I remember saying to my other coaches, 'She fits in at this level,'" Wilkins said.

Nyhof ranks third in Ontario with 4.3 points per set. In her three years at Humber she has positioned herself third all-time in Humber scoring. Even though scoring is evidently not a problem for the 6-foot-2, middle, she says her hitting is one aspect of her game that she would like to improve on.

"I'd like to say I played a huge role in helping Kelly become the volleyball player she is today, but that's all her doing," said Wilkins. "Her raw talent and superior work ethic is what got her this far."

Nyhof said winning the OCAA Rookie of the Year award for women's volleyball in 2010

meant the most.

"I was, and still am, so new to this sport, so I wasn't expecting any recognition for my efforts," said Nyhof. "It opened up a whole new world for me because I realized 'oh, wow, I can actually go far with this,' and it made me want to work harder and become better."

The women's varsity volleyball team at Humber defeated Cambrian 3-0 in the OCAA championships last week in Barrie, which gives them the rare opportunity for a fifth attempt at a national medal. The team has won five consecutive OCAA championships but has yet to bring home a medal at nationals. Nyhof and her team are ranked fifth in Canada and head to B.C. on March 8 in hopes of rising well above that to first place.

## Raiders leading 3-1 in Burlington series

Rookie netminder Michael Giugovaz stopped all shots directed his way for the shutout in a rare Monday matinee as the Georgetown Raiders skated to a 2-0 victory over the host Burlington Cougars.

The first-place Raiders now lead the best-of-7 Ontario Junior Hockey League West Division semifinal series 3-1.

Game 5 of the series is set for the Alcott Arena Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. If game 6 is required, it would be played Friday in Burlington at 2:30 p.m.

Nick Perruccio and Conor McLoughlin scored late in each of the first and second periods to supply all the offence the Raiders would need against the fourth-place Cougars, who have been a stubborn opponent thus far. The Raiders were missing veteran goalie Steven Racine along with forwards Brendan Woods and Brock Labelle for Monday's contest.

Georgetown took game one

at home last Wednesday 3-0 on goals by Tyson Fawcett, Jake Emilio and Patrick Megannety with Racine earning the shutout.

Racine lost his first game in a Raider uniform after 16 straight victories as the Cougars rallied from a 3-1 deficit late in the third period to score a 4-3 double-overtime triumph Thursday in Burlington. Brendan Woods, Braden Kavaratzis and Emilio were the Georgetown scorers.

In game three Saturday, the Raiders took charge early, building a 3-0 lead midway through the opening frame en route to a 4-1 win. Fawcett, Megannety, Emilio and Woods found net, with Racine making 24 saves.

Forward Caleb Apperson returned to the lineup Saturday after injuring his knee on the final weekend of the season.

In the other OJHL West Division semifinal, the Oakville Blades lead the Buffalo Jr. Sabres 3-1 with game five Wednesday in Oakville.

## Ryerson's Briscoe named OUA's top court rookie

Playing for a non-playoff team this season didn't seem to bother Georgetown's Chelsea Briscoe.

The middle blocker and arts program student on the Ryerson Rams earned Rookie of the Year honours in the 13-team Ontario University Athletics' women's varsity volleyball league, chalking up 33 blocks and 144 kills on the season.



CHELSEA BRISCOE

The 5-foot-9 Briscoe's 2.92 points per game average placed her in the league's top 20 on the season for the 6-12 Rams, who placed 11th in the standings.

A Georgetown District High School grad, Briscoe also won a national championship last year with the Burlington Defensa club team.

Two other Halton Hills residents played for Ryerson this year as outside hitters. Chelsea Jensen is in her third year of sociology studies after transferring from Mercyhurst College in Erie, Pa., while Lauren Sokolowski is a second-year nutrition major.

GEORGETOWN  
TOYOTA

GAME OF THE WEEK

GEORGETOWN JR. A

RAIDERS

vs

BURLINGTON COUGARS

Wednesday February 29th, 2012

7:30 pm

Mold-Masters SportsPlex (Alcott Arena)

GEORGETOWN JUNIOR "A"



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