

Pasma's Hockey Development camps Aug. 8-12, 15-19

Dickinson shooting for the Stars

By Eamonn Maher
emahe@theifp.ca

Jason Dickinson plans to have a National Hockey League summer, as Toronto Maple Leafs head coach Mike Babcock often says, and the local native has his sights set on cracking the opening night roster of the Dallas Stars in October.

The 21-year-old forward enjoyed a superb rookie season with the American Hockey League's Texas Stars with 22 goals and 31 assists in 73 games, and following a memorable NHL debut late in the year in Dallas in which Dickinson scored on his first shift, his focus is now on becoming a regular for the 2016-17 campaign.

That's next on the agenda, said the 6-foot-2, 200-pound 2013 first-round pick of the Stars, taken 29th overall in the NHL Draft.

It's just a matter of bringing things up to the NHL level speed, stamina, defensive play everything. (The Stars) didn't tell me to work on anything specific. I'm just going to do my best to be ready for training camp.

The former captain of the Ontario Hockey League's Guelph Storm concedes it will be difficult to find a spot amongst the Stars veteran-laden forward group, although the brief audition in the big league in April no doubt left Dallas GM Jim Hill and head coach Lindy Ruff impressed.

Dickinson, with only a few hours notice that he'd be suiting up for the parent club as

an emergency recall on April 7 to replace Jason Spezza, scored in the first period on his first shot on goal after a goaltending gaffe by Calvin Pickard of the Colorado Avalanche.

Linemate Valeri Nichushkin retrieved the loose puck and passed out front to Dickinson, who had an empty net in front of him to deposit a backhander in the Stars 4-2 victory. Months later, the novelty hasn't worn off.

Everyone I've seen since I came home for the summer, that's the first thing they want to talk about, laughed the prospect tied for first with the best shooting percentage in the league.

It was nice to get a taste of life in the NHL, but it's not going to make the next game any easier.

His first year at the professional level took some getting used to, however, with the move to Cedar Park, Texas, which is located just outside Austin and a couple of hours south of Dallas, meaning that most road games require getting on a plane and not a bus, as he was accustomed to after four years in the OHL.

It was a real adjustment and I struggled with it a bit at first, but on the other side of it, you get to create some good friendships and that made it a lot easier, he said.

You're living on your own in an apartment, where I've got to cook and clean for myself and there's a lot more independence with the travel because we're gone away from home for long periods of time.



JASON
DICKINSON

Continued on page 31



Members of Georgetown's under-16 Mustangs (front, from left) are: Monica Oram, Jessica Fernandes, Lucia Oram, Elyse Armstrong, Isabelle Andrade, Samantha Vertolli, Gemma Patey. Back row: Coach Neil Anderson, Karley Talbot, Rachel Carson, Hannah Gowland, Daniella Marino, Izzy Anderson, trophy presenter Christabelle Collins, Shayla Williams, Chantal Partap, Sophia Castellano, coach Howie Oram. Absent: Lindsay Quinn, Ashleigh Wilson, coach Joao Ngoma. Submitted photo

Mustangs champs at Collins tourney

A pair of Georgetown Mustangs teams came away victorious from the tournament they hosted this past weekend at Trafalgar Sports Park and venues in Georgetown and Acton.

The Georgetown Soccer Clubs second-annual Eustace Collins Memorial Tournament featured 65 teams from across south-central Ontario in rep and all-star divisions ranging from under-13 to under-17 boys and girls.

The under-16 girls Mustangs, some of whom were coached by the late popular volunteer Collins three years ago, rolled through their matches in the under-17 division, beating Richmond Hill 4-1 in the final.

En route to the championship, the Mustangs downed London 2-0, Richmond Hill 5-1, Wa-

terloo 7-0 and Kitchener 6-0 in the semifinals.

Georgetown's under-14 boys were also triumphant in their draw, defeating Erin Mills 3-1 in the championship game.

The Mustangs reached the final by going unbeaten in the round robin, blanking Croatia Norval and Erin Mills 4-0 before drawing with the LAC Spartans 2-2.

The Eustace Collins Memorial tournament is named after the longtime local resident who was a long time volunteer board member, house league coach, referee and rep coach with the GSC. He passed away in 2015.

Collins's widow Christabelle assisted with the presentation of the championship trophies on Sunday.

GYMNASTICS TRAMPOLINE TUMBLING



FALL PROGRAMS BEGIN SEPTEMBER 10TH



CALL US (905) 877-4330
www.haltonhillsgymnastics.com
36 ARMSTRONG AVE, GEORGETOWN, ON L7G 4R9

REGISTER
NOW!



Soccer/Sports Camps - Limited availability in July and August camps at the Gellert Centre.

Parent and Tot Program - a fun introduction to soccer for 4 year olds (born in 2012). Limited spots available in 4-week August session.



Visit website for details and to register!
www.georgetownssoccerclub.com