

SPORTS & LEISURE

Local team has major Impact on Ontario Volleyball rankings

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Not content with dominating just one age group in the Ontario Volleyball Association elite divisions, Georgetown's under-15 girls' Impact is a force at the under-16 level as well.

For the first time in the Impact club organization's two decades in existence, one of its teams has been ranked in the Premier Division for two separate age groups and this year's under-15 girls have captured top spot in all five tournaments they've entered.

Head coach Kevin Hughes's squad has won two under-15 tourneys and three under-16 events to advance to the Premier Division in the latter category, with their only match losses at the under-16 level coming against the third-, fourth- and eighth-ranked teams in the age group.

"They're Grade 9 girls who just look like they're having fun, but when push comes to shove, they have a confidence about them that they know they're going to win and as a coach you might only get a team like that once in your coaching career," said Hughes, who also guides the under-13 Impact girls.

"They're going to win no matter what and yet they don't blow anybody out. It's a team that seems to save their energy until the match is on the line and they get stronger as the match

goes on. All ten of the girls on the team have a role and they play it well because they're all such good athletes. Whatever challenge that's been thrown their way, they've responded to it positively."

The core of the team has been together for four years and won the Canadian under-14 championship last year. Seven of the 10 team members are Halton Hills residents, including five Silver Creek Public School graduates, and another of the team members, Mady Timpany, travels from Woodstock three times a week for practices.

At the net, the Impact boasts the imposing presence of 6-foot-1 middle Lauren Veltman and 5-foot-11 right-side hitter Janelle Albert, with setter Chelsea Dixon orchestrating the offense.

"I can see one or two of the girls playing on a scholarship in the States and most of them could play at the Canadian university level if that's what they choose to do," Hughes added.

Georgetown's under-15s have an under-16 Premier tournament in Richmond Hill leading into the provincial championships in April at RIM Park in Waterloo. There is no national championship this year, but the Impact is expected to compete in the Eastern Canadian finals in Sherbrooke, Que. in May.



Georgetown's under-15 girls' Impact recently earned gold medals for winning an OVA under-16 Championship Division tournament in Kitchener, allowing the team to advance to the top-tier Premier Division for two different age groups. Team members (front, from left) are: Cailin Wark, Chelsea Dixon. Middle row: Lauren Veltman, Mackenzie Young, Tarea Heshka, Janelle Albert. Back row: Coach Kevin Hughes, Mady Timpany, Brooke McGowan, Rebecca Osterlee, Maddie Wilson, coach Kyle McCracken.

Photo by Glenn Heshka

Slow start proves costly

Raiders bow to Canadiens

The visiting Toronto Jr. Canadiens built a 4-0 lead on three power-play markers by the mid-point of the contest and went on to beat the Georgetown Raiders 5-2 Saturday night in Ontario Junior Hockey League action.

With just four games remaining in the regular season, the loss could end up costing the South-West Conference-leading Raiders home ice at some point in the playoffs.

And Georgetown could end up facing the seventh-place Jr. Canadiens in the

first round of the post-season.

Alex Botten and Robbie Murden tallied in the third period for the 34-13-4 Raiders, who outshot Toronto 21-9 in the third period and 40-30 overall.

The game marked the Georgetown debut for 20-year-old forward Adam Nanji, a former Hamilton Red Wing who played four games for the OJHL's Pickering Panthers this season.

Next game for the Raiders is a home date with the Oakville Blades Wednesday starting at 8 p.m.



ROBBIE MURDEN

Rebels fall

Georgetown Rebel Cory Carpenter dribbles away from a couple of Waterloo Collegiate defenders with teammate Andrew Allen looking on during an exhibition high school senior boys' basketball matchup last week at GDHS. The visiting Vikings held on for a 46-40 victory. Sebastian Beckett led the Rebels with 14 points and Alex Garvey added 11.

Photo by Eamonn Maher



GEORGETOWN TOYOTA

GAME OF THE WEEK

GEORGETOWN JR. A

RAIDERS
vs

OAKVILLE, Wednesday, February 13, 2013 - 8:00 pm

TORONTO LAKESHORE, Saturday, February 16, 2013 - 7:30 pm

Mold-Masters SportsPlex (Alcott Arena)

GO RAIDERS GO!

GEORGETOWN JUNIOR "A"



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