

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Dickinson turns focus to U-18 tournament in Russia

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

Although he'd prefer to be still playing in the Ontario Hockey League's post-season, an invitation to represent Canada at this week's Under-18 World Championship in Sochi, Russia was a welcome diversion for Georgetown's Jason Dickinson.

Dickinson's Guelph Storm lost to the Kitchener Rangers in five games in the opening round late last month, the fifth year in a row the franchise has failed to win a playoff series.

And while the 17-year-old's personal stock remains high as a possible first-round pick in this June's NHL Entry Draft, the 6-foot-2, 175-pound centre said the sting of losing to rival Kitchener remained painful to think about nearly two weeks after being eliminated.

"It's a bit of a consolation to be still playing. It was a disappointing, difficult series against Kitchener," said Dickin-

son last week.

The Grade 12 student returned to classes at Christ the King in Georgetown for two days before joining Team Canada.

"I'm trying to put it behind me and focus on the tournament in Russia. I'm a little nervous but I'm really excited to represent Canada for the first time. It's such a great honour, how could you not be excited? We've got such a talented team and it's been a great experience just being involved in the training camp."

Head coach Don Hay's squad has been training and practising at the MasterCard Centre in Etobicoke for the past week prior to leaving for Sochi, the site of next year's Winter Olympics.



**JASON DICKINSON**

A dozen players on the Canadian roster earned gold medals last August at the Memorial of Ivan Hlinka Under-18 Championships in Slovakia, but Dickinson wasn't one of them.

He was cut from the team after a selection camp, but said the rejection helped motivate

him during his sophomore season for the Storm, collecting 18 goals and 29 assists in 66 games, to go with a +19 rating.

He had just a goal and an assist in the series against Kitchener and said his top off-season priority is to become a more consistent performer.

A strong showing at the CHL Top Prospects Game in January kept the NHL scouts interested, as he was rated

16th amongst North American skaters in the latest Central Scouting Bureau rankings for the June 30 draft in New Jersey.

"(The draft) is always in the back of my mind, although it's nothing to be overwhelmed about," he added.

"If I go in the first round, that's great, but if not I'm still going to work as hard as I can for the team that drafts me and show them that they made the right choice. Going to Russia is a great opportunity for me. It's going to be fun to go to a part of the world I otherwise wouldn't get to see and compete against some great players."

Also on the Canadian team in Russia is Dickinson's Guelph Storm teammate, forward Hunter Garlent of Thorold, and budding superstar Connor McDavid of the OHL's Erie Otters.

Canada lost its opening exhibition game to the U.S. 4-1 on Sunday and will start the tournament Thursday against Slovakia.

## GSC skaters show rhythm

The theme for this year's Georgetown Skating Club Ice Show was "We've Got Rhythm" and this group of CanSkate participants entertained the several hundred spectators on hand with a performance skated to the song "Wake Me Up Before You Go-Go" by Wham! Pictured above (from left) are: Mira Crawford, Alana Carras, Harrison Johns, Tanya Fisher, Tamryn Furger.



Photo by Jon Borgstrom

## Wilson frozen out in NCAA final four

The dream season for the UMass-Lowell River Hawks and former Georgetown Jr. A Raiders' captain Scott Wilson came to a close Thursday night, just one game short of an appearance in the NCAA Division I championship final.

UMass-Lowell was outshot by the upstart Yale Bulldogs 47-18 in Thursday night's Frozen Four semifinal game in Pittsburgh, yet managed to push the game to overtime before losing 3-2.

Wilson, a sophomore forward from Oakville, helped set up the first of two River Hawk goals in a 14-second span in the second period to tie the score, but the Hockey East champs didn't even get a shot on goal in seven minutes of extra time prior to the winner being scored.

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