

SPORTS

Blue Fins are in the swim

The Halton Hills Blue Fins hosted the first meet of the two-part Halton Cup championship swimming series for athletes 14 and under who are working towards becoming provincial qualifiers.

Blue Fins' coach Shannon Crawford said the local club had an outstanding showing at the meet, which was held at the Georgetown Indoor Pool, resulting in a fast, productive and exciting experience.

"So many best times for new and returning swimmers, and many athletes learning the importance of technique in their strokes and how it af-

fects their racing," said Crawford, head coach of the Intro & Intro Development Programs.

The Acton Aqua Ducks also competed at the meet, which will conclude with another day of races at the Georgetown Indoor Pool on Valentine's Day.

A few of the racing highlights of the weekend included: Carli Hunchak's 50m breaststroke, Ian Woods's 50m freestyle, Dominic Vulpoi's 50m backstroke and Nicholas Vargas's 50m breaststroke.

Khloe McKay, Alyson Leonard, Kalista Garcia, Sarah Siriska, Maia MacIsaac, Katherine Jickling, Bianca Palumbo, Matthew Jackson, Carson DeForest and Michael Jickling all completed their first 400m individual medley, one of the toughest events in the sport.

Also, earlier this month, 25 of the HHBF's strongest athletes took on some of the fastest in Ontario and Canada at the Swim International meet in Brantford.

All of the Blue Fins had to qualify for this meet and everyone took advantage of the opportunity to put up best times.

Livy Olson registered two provincial qualifying swims in the 100m & 200m butterfly, making her the newest member of HHBF's provincial squad.

Emilie Knighton also had a strong meet, breaking the club record for girls 15-16 in the 200m breaststroke.

Matthew Jackson, Kathleen Reedman and Alyson Leonard all broke into the top 8, which is a feat of its own at this meet.



Cassandra Sant'Angelo of the Halton Hills Blue Fins churns through the water at the Halton Cup meet that the local club hosted earlier this month.

Photo by Lucien Delean

Golden wrestlers

Three Georgetown District High School athletes came away with gold medals from a high school wrestling meet held at Mentor College in Mississauga last week as part of an impressive medal haul by the Rebels.

Anja Vesterback (girls' 61 kgs.), Taylor Richards (girls' 54 kgs.) and Kyle Robinson (boys' 64 kgs.) won their respective weight classes, with silver medals earned by Myles McVeigh (boys' 72 kgs.), Lucas Kells (rookie boys' 67 kgs.), Davis Rapagna (boys' 83 kgs.), Eric MacKenzie (boys' 46 kgs.) and Tara Godfrey women's (64 kgs.).

Jeff Reinhart collected a silver medal in the boys' 57.5 kgs. class.

Despite tough pool in Worlds, Canada is hopeful of squash team's success

Canada will be fielding one of its youngest-ever teams as the hosts bid for success in next month's SHOP.CA WSF Women's World Team Squash Championship in Ontario.

The 11th seeds will be one of 20 nations represented — with all the world's top 10 players in action— in the 19th staging of the biennial World Squash Federation championship at White Oaks Conference Resort & Spa in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Dec. 1-6.

"Our pool is TOUGH!" said team coach Melanie Jans, the former world No. 25 and one of Canada's greatest female players.

Pool C includes third seeds Malaysia, bronze medallists in

the four previous championships and led by world number one Nicol David, together with North American rivals USA, the No. 6 seeds, and Mexico and event newcomers Guatemala.

"Malaysia may be out of our depth but we should be OK against Guatemala," said Jans. "We also have the US and Mexico to contend with. I think we have a chance against these teams!"

The Canadian squad was selected after Team Trials. Captain Samantha Cornett, the 23-year-old world No. 30 and the country's two-time champion making her third appearance in the championship, will be supported by Danielle Letourneau, 21; Nikki Todd, 24;



MELANIE JANS IN 2006

and 20-year-old Hollie Naughton.

"The team trials were close because we have good depth," added Jans, the Squash Director at Club Meadowvale in Mississauga. "The fifth and sixth player could have made the team on any given day."

"We've had a training camp and the players have been training

hard and playing in WSA tournaments. I hosted a WSA at my home club to give them an opportunity to play in a competitive environment on home soil to prepare."

Canada last finished in the top eight in 2000. The team took 13th place the last time the event was held in Canada — in 2006 in Edmonton, where Jans made her sixth and final appearance for her country— and last time, in France, finished in 12th place.

"I think we have a chance of finishing second in our pool, which would put us in the top eight," said Jans. "We'd have our work cut out for us though. In the end, we'd like to finish better than two years ago."

"We have a young team: Players

range from 20 to 24 and are committed to squash for a long time so we could really be a force four years from now!"

The full Pool line-ups (with seeding in brackets) are as follows: Pool A: [1] Egypt, [8] Ireland [9] New Zealand, [13/16] Colombia [17/20] China

Pool B: [2] England, [7] Australia, [10] Wales [13/16] Germany [17/20] Spain

Pool C: [3] Malaysia, [6] USA, [11] Canada, [13/16] Mexico, [17/20] Guatemala

Pool D: [4] Hong Kong China [5] France [12] South Africa, [13/16] India, [17/20] Austria

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