

Cristy Nurse (left) and Jennifer Martins placed sixth at last month's World Rowing Championships in France in the pair category to qualify for next year's Summer Olympics in Brazil. Photo by Rowing Canada Aviron

Nurse qualifies for Olympic events

Georgetown's Cristy Nurse just doubled her chances of winning a medal at next year's Olympics in Brazil by qualifying for the Summer Games in two events at last week's World Rowing Championships in France.

The 28-year-old was a member of the Canadian 8s boat that raced to a bronze medal behind the reigning champion U.S. and runner-up New Zealand, which was her fifth time competing in the world championships. The top five finishers punched their ticket as an entry for the 2016 Summer Olympics.

Nurse also teamed up with Toronto's Jen Martins in the pair competition and they placed sixth in France to qualify for the Rio Games in that discipline as well. "It's a really satisfying feeling," Nurse told Canadian Press.

"The women's team did not qualify a pair for London in 2012, so I think what we did today is a step in the right direction for our program."

A University of Ottawa law school graduate who has put her career on hold in order to train full time for the national team, there's no guaranteed spot on the Canuck team in Rio for Nurse as Rowing Canada won't name its final roster until next summer.

The Georgetown District High School grad did make the Canadian 8s team for the 2012 Summer Games in London, England, but a back ailment prevented her from competing.

McNiven shines for Habs' rookies

For someone who didn't hear his name called in June's National Hockey League Draft, goaltender Michael McNiven can't say he's been overlooked after his perfor-

Thursday, September 17, 2015 - The IFP

mance for the Montreal Canadiens at the Rookie Tournament in London, Ont. Saturday night.

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Local natives play key roles for Victoria, B.C. Shamrocks

Veltman, Kri capture Mann Cup

By Eamonn Maher emaher@theifp.ca

For one Halton Hills native, it was his first major national title on the eve of turning 30, and for the other, he's now accomplished something at age 23 that few who've ever played lacrosse in Canada can boast.

Georgetown's Daryl Veltman and defenceman Brad Kri of Acton are teammates on the Victoria Shamrocks' senior men's team that defeated the visiting Peterborough Lakers 4-2 in the best-of-7 Canadian championship series last week, topped off with a 12-6 victory last Friday in front of a sold-out crowd of more than 3,000 people.

Although he's come close in recent years—ironically losing to Peterborough in six games in the 2007 Mann Cup final—the veteran Veltman, the first overall pick by Boston in the 2008 National Lacrosse League Draft, has enjoyed plenty of personal success, but winning a championship had proven to be elusive.

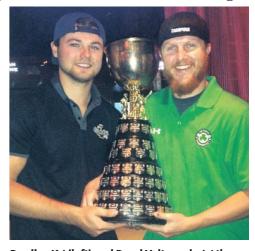
"I've played in a Founders Cup, a Minto Cup, a Mann Cup and a (NLL) Champion's Cup and this is my first win, so it's definitely exciting and a long time coming," said Veltman, who is set to marry his longtime girlfriend Lindsay this Sunday at a ceremony in Tofino, B.C.

Kri is likely listing to one side this week, what with the Mann Cup, Minto Cup (with Orangeville in 2012) and Founders Cup (with Halton Hills in 2010) rings he owns, and his prime years are still well ahead of him.

"People have said that the Mann Cup is the hardest trophy to win in lacrosse," said Kri, who scored a goal in the clinching game.

"The best players in the world are in it and it's not single elimination like the NLL. It's a seven-game battle. There's a lot of history behind the trophy too."

Kri has done some research into the back-



Bradley Kri (left) and Daryl Veltman hoist the
Mann Cup after the Victoria Shamrocks defeated the Peterborough Lakers 4-2 in the best-of-7
series last weekend. Photo by Christine Kri
ground of the Mann Cup, since the man who
it's named after, railway magnate Sir Donald

Mann, was originally from Acton and there's a park with the latter's name on the sign just behind the home where Kri grew up.

The 6-foot-3, 215-pound Kri injured his an-

The 6-toot-3, 215-pound Kri injured his ankle during the regular season and played just one game in the playoffs, but was ready to go for the Mann Cup and filled in admirably for Victoria's defensive stalwart Rory Smith after the Mimico native wasn't able to finish the series due to injury.

Veltman played with the Coquitlam Adanacs of the B.C. league since 2007 before coming over to the Shamrocks in an off-season trade, collecting 20 goals and 54 points in 15 games with Victoria during the regular schedule before earning 33 points in 13 playoff contests.

After five years with the NLL's Calgary Roughnecks, Veltman recently signed a two-year deal with the Buffalo Bandits and on Nov. 1 is set to move back to Georgetown, where he'll work for his dad Gerald's business.

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