

Sami Jo's Road to Torino

By SAMI JO SMALL, TEAM CANADA'S HOCKEY GOALTENDER & 2002 OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST



In our weekend tournament with local Midget AAA boys teams (ages 15-17) here in Calgary I played the third game. Our first two games were tight; however we lost both, 4-2 and 2-1. It was our third game in less than 36 hours and my teammates were understandably exhausted. I love the challenge of a big game, all the pressure square on your shoulders, knowing I needed a big game to secure the fourth and final one of the tournament. I doubted myself; had I trained hard enough? Was Finland a fluke? However, despite the self doubts that we all get in life I kept coming back to the knowledge that I had chosen this lot in life, I knew I had worked hard and I knew regardless of the outcome, the world would not stop based on my performance. In the end, the game went very well, we were badly out-shot and we still mustered up a 1-1 tie. My team played on fumes, diving at pucks doing whatever it took to get the puck out of the zone. I was so proud of each of them. I was exhausted and I had had to only play one game. As we dragged ourselves out of the rink by 11:30pm, Mel stopped me. In a very stoic way, she said, "Sami, it's your start tomorrow, you earned it." I was beaming, not only at the game, but at the small victory I had made in my mind...



have eyes finding its way off shin-pads, through screens, and out of mid-air to find the back of the net. I suppose we all have days like these, no matter how hard you try nothing seems to work, however, when this happens for me, red-lights go on behind me and I get pulled. Mid-

way through the game and four goals later I saw the coach's hand go up and immediately knew what it meant. I came crashing down to reality. I was no longer the goalie that beat the Americans in the final of the Four-nations cup, I was no longer the goalie who had stoned the boys the night before, I was now the goalie skating to the bench being yanked.

Perspective has a way of needing time to formulate. We ended up losing 6-1 despite Kim St-Pierre's (the other goalie) best effort to salvage the game.

I wasn't as good as I should have been, but then again, neither was my team.

It took me a while to stop being mad at myself, however, my teammates have helped. I'm focusing on working hard in practice, doing more, doing a little bit extra each day. And perhaps this is the best lesson I could have taken away from the weekend. We are all human, the world still goes round and the journey still continues. If all else fails, blame it on the mouse and too many ribs!

Sami Jo Small



PHOTO BY DAVE SANDFORD/HOCKEY CANADA

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Sports showcase

SPORTS SHORTS & REGIONAL ROUNDUP

Football Fall Classic

By PETER MCCUSKER

It's the annual football wrap up week which brings hundreds of screaming supporters to Ivor Wynne Stadium in Hamilton to view miraculous turnarounds, defensive struggles, home team romps and defeats. The Halton fall classics are upon us.

In Junior we have three divisions; 1A, in which there are 10 teams, the top two in each pool play off and then the winners play one another.

Assumption Crusaders defeated Oakville's Holy Trinity 42-0 to advance to the finals against Notre Dame who defeated Iroquois Ridge 35-14 Tuesday afternoon (Nov. 1) to determine the other finalist. They will play at Ivor Wynne in Hamilton.

The winner goes on to the Metro Bowl playdowns.

Jr. 1AA have six teams remaining battling it out in Volpe and Richardson Divisions. On Monday Abbey Park played MMR and TAB was at Loyola. These winners will go to semi-finals Nov. 9. The winners go to the championship at Ivor Wynne Nov. 16.

Jr. 2 division begins playoffs this week with a Championship at Ivor Wynne Nov. 16 also. Robert Bateman Wild led the standings with Georgetown DHS both with 4-1 records. Burlington Central sits third with a 3-2 record followed by Christ The King 3-3, Aquinas (Oak) 3-2 and Milton DHS 3-2 with six points each. On Tuesday Burlington Central topped St. Thomas 21-14, Bishop

Reding 41-0 over White Oaks, Georgetown over Aldershot 38-6 and Robert Bateman 22-7 over Milton.

In Senior division 1 there was a four way tie for third to fifth place teams, all 3-3. M. M. Robinson Rams, Milton's Bishop Reding, Burlington Assumption Crusaders and Robert Bateman Wild. Notre Dame Fighting Irish were undefeated and were followed by cross town rivals Nelson Lords who went 5-1. Assumption handily beat Bishop Reding 52-15 in the tie breaker and will face Notre Dame Fri. Nov. 4 in the semi-final. Nelson and M. M. R. Rams meet in the other semi.

There are four games slated for Friday November 4.

Notre Dame will play the winner of the tie breaker, MMR at Nelson, Loyola at loser and T. A. Blakelock at Robert Bateman. The division Championship for both 1A and 1AA is slated for Friday Nov. 11 Remembrance Day at Ivor Wynne. The division 1A Champion will advance into quarterfinal playoffs with Barrie area teams week of Nov. 14 with semi-finals (Nov. 22 and Finals Nov. 25 at St. Michael's Collegiate in Toronto.

In Sr.2 Georgetown will face Oakville Trafalgar today (Nov. 3) as will Aldershot @ Aquinas, Iroquois Ridge at Burlington Central and Holy Trinity at Christ The King in Georgetown. All games at 2 pm. Semi-finals are on Thursday Nov. 10 with the Championship Nov. 18 at Ivor Wynne.

Drury Wrestling: Take One

By PETER MCCUSKER

A fall tune up to the wrestling season was how E. C. Drury coach Larry "Mooch" Jaroslowski described the 10 man team venture to Puerto Rico after the Thanksgiving holiday. It's the second such trip with the University of Guelph wrestling crew.

Kevin Iwasa-Madge garnered a second place and Alan Moffat a fourth at the international tournament and former Drury grapplers Justin Billingham, Rory McDonnell and Victor Sprenger won a fourth and two seconds respectively for the Guelph Gryphons.

Moffat is entering his fourth season. He is defending GHAC Champion and won OFSSA bronze. He wrestled at 63 kilograms in Puerto Rico, going 3 to 1 in his pool for second and lost the bronze battle by a decision to a U.S. wrestler.

Iwasa-Madge is in his third season as defending Ont. Cadet Champion and had a fourth at both Nat'l Cadet and OFSSA.

The reigning GHAC Champ wrestled in Puerto Rico in the 54 kg class winning his pool with a 3 to 1 record, losing his gold medal match by a decision to a US fighter. He had one pin in the tournament.

E. C. Drury wrestling teams have always been tops with an eight year winning streak at the provincial OFSSA championships breaking a record for most consecutive team medals beginning with a silver in 1998-'99, five gold years and silver again last season.

The Drury team has always enjoyed a top reputation for wrestling spanning several decades. Coach Jaroslowski made the Puerto Rico connection while the Drury team was assisting at the Canada Cup at the Guelph University in July.

The season kicks off for the team this week and after having a small contingent of 28 last year, coach Mooch is looking over a good crop of rookies to prepare for the season opener Nov. 18 in Hagersville.



The Fighting Irish

PHOTO BY PETER MCCUSKER

Notre Dame Captain Alicia Garner connected with the ball on this missed kick to score the only goal in the Halton Sr. Girls Field Hockey Championship over Oakville Trafalgar Red Devils, to make four consecutive titles for the Irish. Notre Dame went undefeated during the season with a 19-0-2 season under coach Mieke Vander Kooy. Irish went onto a GHAC crown 5-0 over Bishop Ryan of Hamilton. In junior, OT edged Loyola 2-1.