

Sports & Leisure

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Former Rebel caps rookie OCAA year by winning league's top rookie honour

Considering she started the season just wondering if she would make the team, Krystal Dutkowski's rookie season turned out pretty well.

Dutkowski earned the Ontario College Athletic Association rookie of the year award while helping Seneca College finish fifth at the provincial volleyball championships. That standing could improve considerably next season when you take into account Seneca had 11 rookies on the team this year.

Dutkowski said she was fortunate. Having played volleyball at Georgetown, she had played at provincial high school championships, something many of her teammates had not experienced before.



KRYSTAL DUTKOWSKI

"Some girls had never played in games like that," she said. "I was lucky because we had been to OFSAA (Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association) before."

The rookie of the year award was just the beginning for Dutkowski. She was also an OCAA all-star and won MVP honours in the OCAA all-star game. Dutkowski was also a finalist for the Seneca athlete of the year, where she was up against two senior athletes—a skier and a basketball player.

Dutkowski is enrolled in the fire protection program, which requires her to stay in top physical shape. But there's a delicate balance between the requirements for volleyball and fire fighting.

"It's a really physical program, which helps you stay in shape but you don't want to get too big or you won't be able to jump. And you can't get too skinny because you still have to be able to carry a 200-pound dummy."

Dutkowski thought she would have a lot more time on her hands because she was playing just one sport. But she soon found out the demands of that one sport were much greater. Four practices a week, mental training, an exercise program and study hall to maintain school marks were all part of the volleyball program.

"There's a lot more expected of you," she said.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



He shoots...he scores

Paul Keating of the Tim Horton's Purple team slips a shot by the Tim Horton's Green goalie Ewan Harris during the opening day of the Georgetown Soccer Club's season Saturday at the Croatian Centre. Purple won the game 6-1.

Photo by Trish England

Anger management: Finding fields and times for hundreds of teams can be a daunting task

The Georgetown Peewee Eagles take to the field at the Georgetown Fairgrounds to play Mississauga. Its their fifth of 12 home games for the season. Preparation for the game began with practices in the spring but few playing or watching the game realize the planning to put the team on the field on that day, at that time, began when most Eagle players were still fully immersed in hockey season.

By the time the Eagles come to bat in the fourth inning, parents are cheering on their kids and the scene is repeating itself throughout Halton Hills. Just by doing a 360 from the bench, it's possible to see six other games—the Kinsmen Girls Softball League occupies five of the neighbouring diamonds, the Georgetown Baseball Association has games on the other. But that's just the beginning. At the same time, the Acton Soccer Club has several games going on at McKenzie-Smith Bennett, Glen Williams Minor Ball has two games on at the Glen diamonds, the North Halton rugby team is practising at Georgetown South Community Park. The Georgetown Slo-Pitch League has games going on at the neighbouring diamonds as well as in Hornby and Limehouse. In all, there could be more than 50 games going on simultaneously.

The task of co-ordinating the requests of 30 different groups and slotting them into Halton Hills' 55 different sports fields falls to Barb Anger, the facility permit co-ordinator for the Town of Halton Hills.

If 30 groups doesn't sound like much, consider that the Georgetown Soccer Club has 164 house league teams. The Georgetown Slo-Pitch League has 53 teams and the Georgetown Baseball Association 40 rep and house league teams. That's 257 teams from just three of the groups.

Anger sifts through the requests from the different

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Barb Anger, the Town of Halton Hills' facility permit co-ordinator, looks over the master schedule for Halton Hills sports fields. Anger draws up the schedule for hundreds of sports teams each year, a process that begins four months before the first team ever hits the field.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

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