

SPORTS & LEISURE



Georgetown teens Amy Chiapetta (left) and Kathleen O'Callaghan were on a team from Brampton that represented Canada at the recent World Rope Skipping Championships in Toronto. It was the first appearance for the girls at the worlds and if all goes well they will be a medal contender when the event rolls around again in 2008. Photo by Eamonn Maher

Local skippers 'amazed'

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

Two Georgetown residents recently represented Canada at the World Rope Skipping Championships in Toronto on a Brampton team and the 15-year-old Christ the King students are still tripping over the experience.

Amy Chiapetta and Kathleen O'Callaghan of the Brampton Acro Ropers were among several hundred athletes from around the world who took part in the Humber College meet. And while they didn't earn any medals, some of the dazzling routines of the Japanese, Australian, U.S. and Chinese rope jumpers have inspired the locals to keep practising for the next world championships, to be held in 2008, likely in France. The age group that the local duo skipped in was the 15-17 junior division.

"We didn't really know what to expect the first year we went to the worlds and we did have the youngest team there," said Chiapetta, who took up skipping competitively at age seven. "We knew everyone was going to be good, but we didn't know they'd be amazing. For us it was all about the experience, basically."

Japan's routines incorporated breakdancing

and China's looked like something out of Cirque de Soleil, the girls noted. The U.S. had the largest contingent in Toronto and were prominent the medal standings, having assembled their teams 18 months before the world championships, whereas the Canadian federation didn't determine its qualifiers until May, when Chiapetta and O'Callaghan were on a team that finished third. The top four teams in the eyes of the judges moved on.

"In two years, we'll be at the top of our age category with the most experience, so it should be a good opportunity for us," said O'Callaghan, who joined the Acro Ropers three years ago after learning about the sport from Chiapetta.

The Brampton team also attended the Amateur Athletics Union Junior Olympics in Virginia this summer and posted several top-10 finishes in team and individual events. Members of the Acro Ropers are as young as six years old and also participate in several demonstrations throughout the year, including Toronto Argonaut games, schools and various community events. Chiapetta was among those Canadians invited on a trip to Hong Kong five years ago to promote the sport there.

(Eamonn Maher can be reached at emaher@independentfreepress.com)

The return of the Raiders!

Open season Saturday against Milton

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

A pair of 15-year-olds were among the latest signings by the Georgetown Raiders as the OHA Provincial Jr. A Hockey League club gets set to open the regular season at home Saturday evening against the Milton IceHawks. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

The Raiders have nine returnees from last year's squad, which finished the season in third place with a 27-16-4-2 record, yet just one of those coming back is a defender, the 20-year-old Ryan Lee of Caledon.

Fans will need a program to keep up with all of the new names on the roster, including a 15-year-old blue-liner who looked impressive enough in training camp that Georgetown has signed him.

Spencer Metcalfe, a 6-foot-1, 183-pounder who played with the Oakville Rangers bantams last year, is expected to make his Jr. A debut Saturday, as will 5-foot-9, 171-pound forward Matt Sisca from the Mississauga bantam IceDogs.

Back for a second campaign here is speedy winger Adam Campbell of Toronto, while another 17-year-old, 6-foot-3, 203-pound forward Spenser Janes of the Toronto Jr. Canadiens, has signed. Defenceman Adamo Miceli, 17, also from the Jr. Canadiens' midget team, is on board, as is 19-year-old, 5-foot-8, 160-pound forward Joe Christiano from the Jr. B Fort Erie Meteors.

Georgetown's youngest player last season, forward George Lovatsis, isn't expected to return as he's likely to sign with the OHL's Barrie Colts.

The Raiders played their final exhibition game Tuesday, falling to the revamped Ajax Attack 5-4. No

scorers were available.

Georgetown also plays its first road game Monday night in Port Credit against the Mississauga Chargers.

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(Eamonn Maher can be reached at emaher@independentfreepress.com)

Raiders' schedule

- Sat. Sept. 9 vs. Milton, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon. Sept. 11 at Mississauga, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Sept. 16 vs. Bramalea, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon. Sept. 18 at Buffalo, 8:15 p.m.
- Fri. Sept. 22 at Milton, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Sept. 23 vs. Burlington, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun. Sept. 24 vs. Markham at Bowmanville (OPJHL Governors' Showcase), 4 p.m.
- Fri. Sept. 29 at Bramalea, 7:45 p.m.
- Sat. Sept. 30 vs. Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 7 vs. Streetsville, 8 p.m.
- Sun. Oct. 8 at Streetsville, 3:30 p.m.
- Fri. Oct. 13 at Oakville, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 14 vs. Bramalea, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon. Oct. 16 at Buffalo, 8:15 p.m.
- Thurs. Oct. 19 at Brampton, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 21 vs. Brampton, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon. Oct. 23 at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. Oct. 25 vs. Mississauga, 8 p.m.
- Fri. Oct. 27 at Burlington, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Oct. 28 vs. Oakville, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Nov. 4 vs. Streetsville, 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs., Nov. 9 at Brampton, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Nov. 11 vs. Mississauga, 8 p.m.
- Fri. Nov. 17 at Bramalea, 7:45 p.m.
- Sat. Nov. 18 vs. Burlington, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. Nov. 22 vs. Buffalo, 8 p.m.
- Fri. Nov. 24 at Oakville, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Nov. 25 vs. Hamilton, 8 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 2 vs. Buffalo, 7:30 p.m.
- Sun. Dec. 3 at Burlington, 7:30 p.m.
- Fri. Dec. 8 at Streetsville, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 9 vs. Oakville, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. Dec. 13 vs. Mississauga, 8 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 16 vs. Brampton, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon. Dec. 18 at Buffalo, 8:15 p.m.
- Fri. Dec. 22 at Milton, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Dec. 23 vs. Burlington, 7:30 p.m.
- Fri. Jan. 5 at Milton, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Jan. 6 vs. Oakville, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Jan. 13 vs. Streetsville, 7:30 p.m.
- Wed. Jan. 17 vs. Bramalea, 8 p.m.
- Fri. Jan. 19 at Bramalea, 7:45 p.m.
- Sat. Jan. 20 vs. Milton, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon. Jan. 22 at Mississauga, 7:15 p.m.
- Fri. Jan. 26 at Burlington, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Jan. 27 vs. Mississauga, 7:30 p.m.
- Thurs. Feb. 1 at Brampton, 7:30 p.m.
- Sat. Feb. 3 vs. Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.
- Mon. Feb. 5 at Hamilton, 7:30 p.m.



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