

Lyons hopes weekend lacrosse event a stepping stone to playing for Canada

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Last week, Team Ontario's under-17s took on some under-19 countries that were preparing for the 2007 championships and fared well, beating Germany, Scotland, Wales and New Zealand before dropping a match to England's A division side.

One of the goals of this week's

world tourney in Peterborough is to promote the sport of field lacrosse among younger players. The game has many different rules compared to the more traditional indoor box men's format. Field lacrosse has 10 players per side on a larger playing ground and one of its curious aspects is that the boys wear helmets and the girls don't.

"Our sport is about finesse, not force," said Cheryl MacNeill, who twice represented Canada at the World Cup and is one of the organizers this country's first international women's lacrosse event. "There are no pads, so we focus on the finesse of the skills. It's like basketball with sticks."

A lacrosse stick has never been far from Lyons' hands since the age of three and she's also a standout for

Brampton's AA bantam girls' hockey team. Her dad Gord suited up for Canada's field team at the 1978 Commonwealth Games in Edmonton, won a Mann Cup with Brampton in 1980 and currently serves as president of the Halton Hills Minor Lacrosse Association.

Casey has set a goal of earning a scholarship to a major U.S. college for field lacrosse, which is soaring in popularity among NCAA Division I schools. A trip to the 2011 world championships, wherever they may take place, is also on the radar.

"Her (Team Ontario) coached told Casey to watch what happens next year, the phone will start to ring off the wall," said mom Cathy Longhurst.

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



Having just turned 14 last month, Georgetown's Casey Lyons has been an offensive terror this year for Brampton's under-19 women's field lacrosse team and was also in top form in Peterborough this week to play for Ontario at an under-17 festival as part of the world junior championships.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Bantam II Hawks vie for Ont. title this weekend

The Halton Hills Hawks will play in the Provincial Women's Softball Association Grand Championships for the Bantam II division this weekend in St. Catharines after qualifying at a tournament in Whitby late last month.

Twelve teams from around the province are set to meet in a double-knockout format tournament held at Lancaster Park in St. Catharines. The Hawks will face Cambridge in their opening game Friday evening.

Halton Hills advanced to the provincials by placing fourth at a 10-team qualifier in Whitby.

Halton Hills 22, Niagara Dynamite 6: Chelsea Pronkewich, Michelle Scanlan (HR).

Ancaster Blizzard 14, Halton Hills 4

Halton Hills 9, Niagara Dynamite 8 (8 inns.): Leah Mark (three-run triple, GWRBI).

Halton Hills 6, Pickering Heat 5: Haley Besworth, Jess Leslie, Katie Tilley (key hits).

Ancaster 12, Halton Hills 2

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