

SPORTS & LEISURE

Local teenager eager to Crash Ice in Quebec City

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

Georgetown teenager Blake Seaton is one of 150 competitors who have qualified for a rough-and-tumble race through the streets of Quebec City this Saturday night in which the participants will be wearing full hockey equipment.

Red Bull Crashed Ice features a 1,800-foot urban ice track that combines downhill skating, hockey and boardercross in full-contact mode with the combatants reaching speeds of 50 km/h in front of thousands of spectators.

The third-annual event will be broadcast live for the first time on The Sports Network Saturday starting at 9 p.m. and \$5,000 is up for grabs for the winner.

The 18-year-old Seaton said he's not sure what to expect or how he could train beforehand for such an extreme competition, except maybe to call on his experience as a recreational snowboarder and skateboarder, along with his hockey background. He qualified by finishing fourth out of 200 entrants at an event last month in London, Ont. where the hopefuls were timed maneuvering through an obstacle course in an arena that was nothing like he'll find on the steep streets of Quebec City.

"Other than the four guys who made it to the final four last year, for the most part this is new to everyone else and I think my skateboarding and snowboarding will be an advantage for me," said the fifth-year Christ the King

High School student.

"I'm not really taking it seriously yet but I'm sure that will change when I get there and see the course. I'm just looking to have a good experience and some fun."

More qualifying races will take place today (Friday) to pare the field down to 64. Consecutive heats of four skaters racing head-to-head in a double-elimination bracket will be used on Saturday to determine the final four. 2007 Quebec City and Helsinki, Finland Crashed Ice champion Kevin Olson of Lethbridge, Alta. will try to defend his title.

Polymer boards are in place to separate the skaters from the spectators and organizers have been constructing the course for the past three weeks, with the Chateau Frontenac serving as the start line. Seaton added that Red Bull is covering his expenses and his parents are going to be on hand to watch.

It's not the only on-ice adventure planned this winter for Seaton, as his Christ the King varsity boys' hockey team leaves for Europe for a 10-day tour of the Czech Republic, Austria and Germany in March.

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

Blake Seaton (right) horses around with Christ the King High School teammate Darcy Cook at a practice last week. Seaton will take part in the Red Bull Crashed Ice event on Saturday evening in Quebec City.

Photo by Eamonn Maher



Lyons begins NLL career in fine form

Rookie Matt Lyons has certainly made a good first impression early on in his pro lacrosse career with the Rochester Knighthawks with four goals in his first three games.

The 21-year-old Lyons notched his fourth goal of the National Lacrosse League campaign on Saturday in a 15-14 Rochester loss at Philadelphia and has found the net in all three of his team's starts.

In his debut at the season opener against Buffalo, he scored twice and added an assist as a sold-out crowd of nearly 19,000 spectators at the HSBC Arena witnessed the NLL defending-champion Knighthawks defeat the host

Bandits 14-9.

Shortly after veteran defender Sandy Chapman of Acton opened the scoring early in the first quarter for the K'Hawks, Lyons notched his first goal and later gave the visitors a 10-4 advantage just prior to the final quarter.

Originally taken in the first round of last September's NLL Draft by Boston, Lyons was chosen by Rochester in a subsequent roster dispersal as the expansion Boston franchise opted not to operate this season due to a league

labour dispute. The Knighthawks make their lone visit to Toronto's Air Canada Centre on April 5 to face the Rock.



MATT LYONS

Girls' hockey roundup

Peewee BB Twisters second at tournament

Despite allowing just five goals against in five games, the North Halton peewee BB Twisters had to settle for silver medals at the 11th-annual Whitby Wolves girls' hockey tournament recently, edged by the Bluewater Sharks 2-1 in the championship final.

Preliminary round— North Halton 2, Whitby 0: Ashley DiCarlo, Holly Einboden (G); Leanne Gourlay, Sarah Olsen (A); Katelyn Whitelock (SO).

North Halton 1, London 0: Olsen (G); Jessie Fariello (SO).

North Halton 1, Belmont 1: Kennedi Herrmann (G); Maddie Jolivet, Whitelock (A).

Semifinals— North Halton 3, Niagara Falls 2 (SO): DiCarlo (G, A); Olsen, Lynda Trudell (G); Stephanie Wilson (A).

Championship— Bluewater 2, North Halton 1: DiCarlo (G); Jolivet (A).

Peewee B Twisters

After being shut out in their first two games, the North Halton peewee B Sharpie Twisters reeled off three straight wins to capture gold medals at the Guelph Thunderstorm Tournament.

Preliminary round— Ilderton 5, North Halton 0

Kitchener 2, North Halton 0

North Halton 1, Norfolk 0: Logan Peretto (G); Madison Jenkins, Jenna Waters (A); Deanna Bailey (SO).

Semifinal— North Halton 3, Mississauga 1: Jenkins, Allison Czerny, Emily Brownhill (G); Renee Gareau, Aleesa Pretto (A).

Championship— North Halton 2, Ilderton 1: Jenkins (G, A); Waters (G); Peretto (A); Bailey (W).

See BANTAM, pg. 23



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