

Local duo shine for Ontario squad

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

A couple of Halton Hills residents cemented their status as being among the top 14-year-old female soccer players in the country after their performances at the recent BMO National Championships at Sherwood Park, Alta.

Striker Jade Kovacevic of Stewarttown and Terra Cotta midfielder Nicole Waters played prominent roles for Ontario's under-14 side as they captured the Canadian Soccer Association title with a 2-1 triumph over B.C. in the final.



Stewarttown's Jade Kovacevic (left) head coach Ruben Flores of Georgetown and Nicole Waters of Terra Cotta (right) were part of the 2008 Ontario under-14 girls' soccer team that captured the national championship at the recent tournament near Edmonton.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Kovacevic chalked up six goals in five games during the nine-team tournament, finishing second in overall scoring behind a teammate who tallied seven times in the opening 14-0 trouncing of P.E.I. Waters scored twice and was a solid two-way presence for the champs.

Their Ontario under-14 head coach, Georgetown South resident Ruben Flores, said that both players impressed the Canadian Soccer Association scouting officials on hand for the event and wouldn't be surprised if one or even both locals represent Canada at some stage.

"Nicole is a very technical player and she's come a long way in a short period of time," said Flores, who played professionally in the U.S., Mexico and Italy. "She's played for me for two years now and every position I've needed her to play she's been very reliable. She has a good shot and can see the game really well.

"Jade's just a horse. She has played different positions as well and at the moment of truth, she came out and showed us she can do what it takes. She scored a lot of goals and was our most consistent player at the tournament."

Waters and Kovacevic both play for the Oakville Titans' under-14 club team, which was beaten 1-0 on Saturday by Pickering at Cambridge in the semifinals of the Ontario Cup play-downs.

They will soon begin tryouts for next year's under-15 provincial team, but because the Canadian tournament is held every two years, they'll have to wait until their under-16 years to attempt a repeat as national champions.



Ropers rustle up medals

Alana Coughlin (left) of Georgetown earned gold and bronze medals at the recent AAU Junior Olympics in Detroit for the sport of competitive jump rope, which featured competitors from as far away as Australia. Competing in the nine-year-old age group, Coughlin also finished sixth in the freestyle category and teamed up with her Brampton Acro Roper teammate, Sydney van Engelen of Brampton (right) to post a couple of top-10 finishes in the pairs' competition.

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