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Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton's Heather Dans works out with GoodLife Fitness Club elite level trainer Jason Meier in preparation for this summer's World Deaf Games in Rome Italy. She'll be part of the national women's volleyball team, after cracking the lineup back in the fall.

# Miltonian earns herself a spot on the national deaf women's volleyball team

By STEVE LeBLANC  
The Champion

Milton's Heather Dans has served herself up an exciting opportunity for the summer — but it may get spiked down without a boost from the community.

The 16-year-old recently earned a spot on the national deaf women's volleyball team, that'll be part of the 2001 World Deaf Games in Rome, Italy from July 16 to August 1.

### In need of funds

Her athletic prowess have put her in position to compete — although now she'll have to match that with some financial backing. Three thousand dollars to be exact.

"Any help from businesses or individuals would be very much appreciated," said the local teen.

Dans has already received a helping hand from GoodLife Fitness Club — by way of a six-month membership and personal training from elite level instructor Jason Meier.

A serious fitness regiment, she said, will be needed

in order to ensure a strong showing overseas.

Said Dans, "I really want to be in as good shape as possible."

While tryouts were held over a weekend back in the fall, the local volleyballer had gained a spot on the 11-player national squad before the end of the first day — and said it "was really exciting" to be selected.

### Strong setting

Dans' greatest attribute on the court is setting, although she's no slough in any aspect of the game.

A well-rounded attack has served her well over the past five years — during which the E.C. Drury School for the Deaf student has earned championship honours at a number of tournaments throughout the province.

Now Dans is hoping to pick up some hardware on the international front.

"There'll be so many countries represented there that it's hard to predict how we'll do, but it would be great to medal," she



Heather Dans

said.

Anyone interested in sponsoring Dans' summer excursion is asked to call Meier at 876-3488.

Please fax your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943, or drop them off anytime at 191 Main St. E. If office closed, please slide reports through mailslot.