

World junior meet will have to wait for SDSS speedster

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of Geiger's achievements, were thrilled by what they saw.

"She blew everyone away," he said. Accomplishments at the OFSSA level have qualified Geiger to compete in the under 17 world junior meet in Morocco, but she's not going.

"I want to wait another two years," she says, "I'll then be 16 and have more experience."

She'll attend a national meet in Montreal next month.

The Ottawa-born Geiger moved with her parents to Stouffville 12 years ago. She has two younger brothers, Paul, 13 and Matthew, two.

It was at the elementary school level

that Geiger began to blossom. In Grade 8 at Summitview Public School, she shared the 2004 athlete of the year award with hockey star Jaime Sparks.

It was then that Ross and Geri Geiger realized their daughter possessed an athletic skill worth developing. They enrolled her in a winter indoor school program at York University and summer outdoor classes in King City. Her coach is William Garrdner, who they call "a wonderful inspiration".

Geiger trains eight hours a week.

The five-foot, nine-inch, 120-pound honour student would like to earn an athletic scholarship and further her education.

Her father competed at OFSSA in the 200 and 400 meters and attended Cornell University on a scholarship. Her

mother, a college cheerleader, excelled at soccer and swimming.

Mr. Jimmo said five years ago, Stouffville's Dana Wood set a midget 400 metre record of 59.9 seconds. Then, three years later, won junior bronze at OFSSA with a time of 56.97 seconds.

"I thought I'd never again see anyone her equal, then, wow, along comes Natalie; it's unbelievable," he said.

Stouffville Secondary will hold its 2005 athletic banquet tonight. Not surprising, Natalie Geiger has been nominated junior female athlete of the year.

Other OFSSA entries from SDSS were Dan Coskun in discus and Bruce Prestonin shot put. Coskun placed fourth and Preston 17th.

For complete results, see sports on page 26.

Natalie Geiger of Stouffville District Secondary School en route to two gold medals and a meet record at the Ontario high school track finals near Windsor last weekend.



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