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2010 OLYMPICS

Spirit goalie gets Monster gig with Maple Leafs

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Now in goal for the Toronto Maple Leafs, Kori Coelho.

It might be a little premature in the Stouffville Spirit netminder's career to be making the big jump directly with the National Hockey League club.

But in fact, Coelho suited up with the Maple Leafs Wednesday - as a practice netminder.

With the NHL in a shutdown mode due to the 2010 Winter Olympics, the Maple Leafs were looking for an extra goaltender as Jonas Gustavsson was in Vancouver playing for Team Sweden.

Coelho, 20, answered the call when the Maple Leafs asked him if he would like to work out with the team at their practice facility in Toronto.

Making Coelho's appearance at the practice a reality was Spirit teammate Matt Neal, whose father, Frank, is a scout with the Maple Leafs.

"It was a surprise to hear they (Maple Leafs) needed a goalie," said the Central Canadian Hockey League's East Division MVP. "I was shocked, but excited."

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FUTURE OLYMPIANS?



STAFF PHOTO/SUSIE KOCKERSCHIEDT

Isabelle Pelowich, 2, gets help from her sister Katia (right), 8, and Gwyneth Kobald, 6, during the Stouffville Spirit's free skate at the Stouffville Arena last Sunday.



John Cudmore

Cuddy Shark

Special athletes for special Games

How can you not feel a tug on the heartstrings for many of our Olympic athletes?

Expectations raised so high, impossibly so in some cases, even months prior to the Vancouver/Whistler Games, that the crash landing to reality is sometimes so dramatic.

Then again, there is no benefit in shooting for low-level performance.

Did you get a feel for the disappointment of moguls silver medal winner Jenn Heil, a favourite for gold coming in? Or speedskater Denny Morrison after he fizzled in the 1,000 metres the other night?

These athletes are aiming high in their own minds, big on the risk-reward concept. Given a choice, wouldn't we prefer our athletes to aim higher, even if it means the occasional splat landing?

There is disappointment among the masses for the athletes on whose shoulders a vast majority of Canadians ride for a couple of weeks every four years.

All the talk of dominating these games through Own The Podium (OTP), not to mention the hills, tracks, arenas, dressing areas and concession stands, merely served as a rallying cry. While enthusiastic and commendable and revenue-generating, some chest-beaters at OTP and Canadians, in general, may have miscalculated that the rest of the participating countries might have some

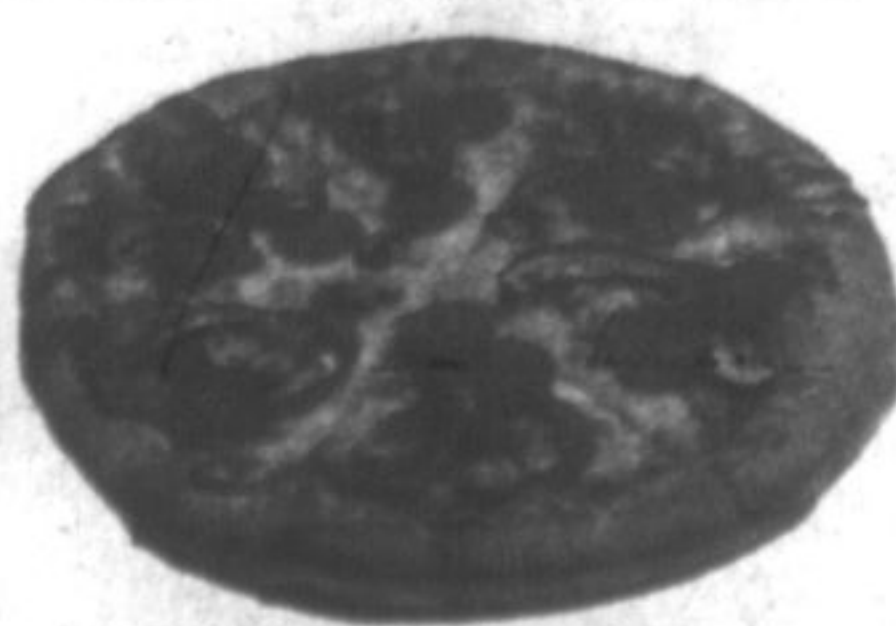
See CAN, page 8.

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