

Rugby, not hockey, this Carrick's game

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
mhayakawa@yrmg.com

Playing rugby with the provincial boys' program and at Bill Crothers Secondary School this past year has taken Matt Carrick across Canada and overseas.

While being scheduled to take to the York University pitch in Toronto later this month might not seem as appealing, it will add another feather in the 16-year-old Stouffville resident's rugby-playing cap.

Carrick is on one of two 12-man rosters the Toronto Region will field for the Ontario Summer Games Aug. 17 and 18.

Playing as a prop, Carrick is excited to be presented with a chance to showcase his skills on the pitch in a competition that will field some of the top players from across the province.

He's also looking forward to playing in a seven-aside format — the same version that will be employed when rugby makes its debut at the 2016 Summer Olympics.

His provincial under-16, Aurora Barbarians and Bill Crothers' teams traditionally play 15-aside rugby.

"I think being a part of the Toronto sevens team is a great opportunity to improve my game and it will also be an excellent experience competing at the summer games,"

Carrick said.

He was informed he'd made the Ontario Games' team by Andrew McCutcheon, his coach at Crothers who is also leading the Toronto Region entry.

The process of selecting the final rosters was a drawn out process that began with fitness testing camps last winter.

TRANSFERRING TO SDSS

From there, about 30 players were selected to go to the tryouts.

The final rosters, which included Carrick, were announced July 18.

"There was a lot of competition at the camps and I wasn't fully confident I would make the team," Carrick said. "There were many more players that had the same goal as me. But in the end, all the hard work paid off."

In playing the sevens version as compared with 15s, Carrick acknowledged there's a big difference and it forced him to make adjustments to his game before trying out for the squad.

"The main difference between the two is that in sevens there's a lot more running, less contact and it's faster paced," he said.

Entering Grade 11 this fall and transferring to nearby Stouffville District Secondary School, Carrick's

love for rugby began when he was 12 years old after he was encouraged to play the game through a friend, former Stouffville Secondary student Quinten Coetsee.

After joining the Aurora Barbarians club, it didn't take long for Carrick to pick up the game and he made his provincial age group team in just his first year when he played up one year at the age of 13.

"The thing I enjoy most about rugby is the fact that it's very fast paced," said Carrick.

Three of his cousins have played in the Ontario Hockey League, including NHL draft picks Sam Carrick (Toronto) and Trevor Carrick (Carolina).

Carrick hopes his time at the Ontario Summer Games and with the provincial under-16 team will enable him to continue to move up the rugby rank and file.

"I plan to take my rugby career as far as possible and hopefully one day play for Team Canada," he said.

Based on what he's accomplished on the pitch thus far, it might not be long before Carrick fulfills that dream.

First in a series on Stouffville athletes selected to compete at this month's Ontario Summer Games in Toronto.



Two of Matt Carrick's cousins have been drafted by NHL teams. He prefers rugby and will play at the Ontario Games later this month in Toronto.

COMPETITIVE PRICES!

MAPLE ROOFING SUPPLIES

FULL LINE OF ROOFING MATERIALS

(905) 737-4603

TOLL FREE 1 (877) 737-4603 • 300 NEWKIRK RD RICHMOND HILL

WWW.MAPLEROOFINGSUPPLIES.COM • MAPLE@BELLNET.CA

YOUR PROFESSIONAL ROOFERS' SHOP

Shopping for a New Vehicle?

FEATURED THIS WEEK

THE 2012 MINI ROADSTER

First go to

WheelsTalk.com

and find out what Moore, Robinson, Drury and Beintema have to say

NEIL MOORE

JIM ROBINSON

LORNE DRURY

ROB BEINTEMA

wheelstalk.com

YOUR LOCAL SOURCE FOR ALL THINGS AUTOMOTIVE

Industry News • Latest Reviews • Videos • Blogs • Opinion • and more

Get Snuggled™

save.ca

✂ your online source for FREE online coupons

has partnered with Snuggle® to bring you a GREAT NEW ONLINE COUPON!

To learn more and to get your coupon visit getsnuggled.com and save.ca

Find us on Facebook
facebook.com/savedotca

save.ca