Burrows, underdogs win national title

BY MICHAEL HAYAKAWA
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Lindsay Burrows can proudly boast of accomplishing something few do.

What the Stouffville resident did was to win a National Collegiate Athletic Association title.

A defenceman with the Elmira College Soaring Eagles women's hockey club, Burrows and her teammates reached that pinnacle after defeating Vermont's Middlebury College Panthers 1-0 in the NCAA Division III championship tilt played in Superior, Wisc. Saturday.

Currently in her second year at the Elmira, N.Y.-based school, Burrows acknowledged the championship definitely ranks as her biggest personal highlight thus far in her on-ice career.

More important though, it fulfilled the team's objective from the start of the season as they claimed their third NCAA Division III title in the program's 12-year history.

"Words cannot describe the feeling. This (winning the title) has been our goal all year and the fact that we were able to achieve it is unbelievable," Burrows said from campus Monday. "Not a lot of people can say they've won a national title, especially at this level or even compete in the final four tournament. It is definitely something I will never forget."

She's the niece of Stouffville Spirit co-owner and general manager Kenny Burrows and older sister of first-year Spirit forward Chad Burrows. Their big sister, Jessica, dances with the Hong Kong Ballet.

Lindsay felt the key to her club's success in the final stemmed from their mental fortitude.

That, she said, was something that developed during the course of the season which saw the club finish up with a 24-5-1 overall record.

Never was this more evident when they defeated Gustavus Adolphus from St. Paul, Minn., a team which had a 27-1-1 record, 4-3 in overtime in their semifinal game just one day earlier.

"Our work ethic and the will not to give up, we played for the girl beside us and didn't take a shift off," she said. "Everything was clicking and we had the mind set that there was no other option but winning.

"We were the underdogs from the start and everyone doubted us, but we believed in ourselves and one another and knew we would prove them wrong.

"At the beginning of the year we made our team slogan 'believe til the end'."

Amassing two goals and nine assists in 27 games this past season, Burrows is majoring in education.

Lindsay Burrows and the Elmira College Soaring Eagles won the NCAA Division III championship in Wisconsin Saturday.

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