

Sports

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Sports Briefs

Firefighters come up short at Curling Nationals

Team NWT's defense of their 2008 Canadian Firefighters Curling Championship came up short in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

The team of Wyatt Scheller, Jeff Bendell, Leah Plett and Kyle Wright opened the Hydrant Championships, which began March 27, with three straight losses before rebounding with a convincing 9-2 thumping of Team Quebec on March 29.

After three straight losses to Team Ontario, Team New Brunswick and Team British Columbia, Team NWT got on a roll April 1, losing 6-5 to the eventual bronze medal winning team from Nova Scotia, followed by a default win over Team Newfoundland and Labrador.

On April 2, Team NWT took on Team Prince Edward Island. The game was tied at 2 through five ends before PEI scored 1 in both the sixth and seventh ends to take a 4-2 lead. After drawing within one in the eighth, Team NWT scored two in the ninth to take a 5-4 lead into the tenth and final end. Team PEI rallied for two in the tenth to win the game 6-5.

Team NWT finished up the championships with a 14-0 loss to Team Northern Ontario, who won the silver medal.

Team Saskatchewan took home the gold.

Arena changes seasons

April 6 marked the last day for ice sports at the Ben Sivertz arena.

Now comes the process of taking the ice out and converting it to a more summery venue.

During the summer, the rink will be used for various dances, the Lobster Fest, giant bingos, trade shows, and whatever other events may require a large space with bleachers.

Kim Tybring, maintenance manager at the rink, says the rent for this space is cheaper in summer, so teams who wish to hold their indoor games such as soccer in this space should inquire.

The rink will also be open for indoor roller hockey throughout the spring season.

Check in with the front desk for upcoming events and schedules.

Olympic swimmer visits Hay River

BY PATRICK F. TESKEY
HUB EDITOR

A two-time member of Canada's Olympic Swim Team was in Hay River last week to meet with local swimmers and students.

Mike Brown, who competed for Canada in both the 2004 Athens Olympics and last year's Olympics in Beijing, spent part of two days training alongside members of the Hay River Lion's Swim Team. Following an evening presentation on April 1, Brown travelled to area schools to meet with students and teachers.

A competitive swimmer since the age of seven, Brown, 23, is the current Canadian record holder in the 200m breaststroke. He won the gold medal in the event at the 2006 Commonwealth Games, a silver medal at the 2005 World Championships and a fourth place finish at the 2008 Olympics.

Brown, a native of Perth, Ontario, said he wanted the youth to realize that coming from a small town didn't mean they couldn't follow their dreams.

"I want them to know they can do whatever they want in this world," he told *The Hub* following his presentation. "There are so many opportunities out there to do what you want to do and be what you want to be. It doesn't matter if you come from

a small town or you come from a big city, you can be the best that you want to be and be the best in the world at any sport."

Brown said he could see a lot of similarities between himself when he started swimming and the younger Hay River swimmers. He said many of the swimmers could achieve their goals with some perseverance, dedication and hard work.

"I remember sitting in a chair looking up at someone that was talking to me when I was a young kid growing up," he said. "I was nothing special when I was growing up. I wasn't an Olympic athlete when I was younger. I just worked extremely hard to get to my goal and accomplished it."

On the evening of April 1, Brown spent his time coaching the younger members of the Hay River team, saying he was impressed with what he saw in the pool.

"You can't tell when you're 12 if you're going to be in the Olympics or not," Brown said, noting that some

"As long as you have a pool filled with water you can do whatever you want to do."

*- Mike Brown
Canadian Olympic Swimmer*

swimmers peak at a young age but later falter. "It's a build up, it's a process of the years of doing it properly in terms of not too much at the beginning but not too little either."

Lion's head coach Kelvin Yee said he hoped Brown's appearance would encourage more youth to join the club, while teaching the



Mike Brown takes to the pool on April 2.

photo by SCOTT CLOUTHIER

current swimmers about setting goals for themselves throughout the season.

"That's basically what I'd want the younger swimmers to start looking at, because we're a young club," he said.

"We've got a few veterans but a lot of young kids (too). I'd like to see them start developing in some sports and setting some goals."

Seeing an Olympic athlete up close and hearing his

story opened the eyes of his swimmers, Yee explained.

"Everybody sees you on TV and thinks you're a god," he said. "Then to find out he's from a small town like this, you could see a lot of the kids' eyes open up right away."

Brown said he was impressed by the veteran Hay River swimmers.

"They have really good technique and they have really good speed," he said.

"Who knows what will

happen." Hay River swimmers have one advantage Brown didn't have growing up - a modern facility.

"It was old, it was falling apart," he said of the facility in Perth where he started swimming.

"It doesn't matter how many lanes you have all you need is one lane to train ... as long as you have a pool filled with water, you can do whatever you want to do."



Canadian Olympic swimmer Mike Brown looks on as a number of Hay River swimmers take to the pool on April 1. Brown spent two afternoons giving local swimmers pointers.

photo by SCOTT CLOUTHIER



Mike Brown, Canadian record holder in the 200m breaststroke and a two-time Olympian, passes on instruction to a young Hay River swimmer.