



May 10, 2010

Performances Worth Highlighting - Again

I do listen.

Several people suggested that I hold off picking my top 10 athletes of the week until the weekend ends allowing for tournaments and last minute information coming in from schools. Alright, let's see what happens.

So, here we go. No need for trumpets or firecrackers. The 10 for this week made plenty of noise with their display of excellence in sport. People keep writing and asking why I don't list them in numerical order instead of the alphabet approach?

I did say that I listen. Some times the ideas are good. This one, not so. In response, it's very difficult in high school sports - and with a variety too - to list them 1 to 10 without offending someone.

Fraser Aird, Campbell. Soccer is his game and, from what I have been told, this youngster can play the game. He's been on a provincial team and now he's scoring goals for his Toronto high school junior boys' team. He had five goals in a 7-2 win over Lester B. Pearson

Fabienne Chan, Richmond Hill. She's now a provincial gold medalist in badminton - and accomplished it in her first appearance at the Ontario high school playoffs. She had lost a few days earlier in the Canadian under-19 Singles playoffs and - with an injured hand - was unbeatable and swept the Ontario final.

Valaine Confesor, Cardinal Newman. A two-time junior athlete of the year at her school, she's a four-sport athlete. She scored the winning goal in a 5-1 soccer victory over St. Joseph's, but also claimed the gold medal in the table tennis finals.

Conor McCann, Malvern. I saw him play in a Toronto rugby game and was impressed at how he took control with his talent, power and physical strength. Four tries and five converts in a 52-7 senior boys' win over Riverdale. He's also on Canada's under-17 rugby squad.

Connor Panas, Etobicoke. Great pitching performance in an 11-5 win over Weston. He helped out with the bat too - a home run - in that Toronto District School Board league game. Baseball runs in the family. His older brother Ryan was a Toronto Star MVP and former OUA rookie of the year playing at Wilfrid Laurier.

Kayla Picanco, Loretto. Yes, second week on this big list. She has to be the top soccer scorer in the Toronto high school game. In her last three games, try 18 goals. That includes five in a 7-3 pounding of Don Bosco in their Toronto District Colleges Athletic Association varsity game.

Victoria Powers, Denis O'Connor. Rarely hear much from this Ajax-area high school, but this lacrosse player is creating attention. Six goals in a 10-2 Durham Region win over Paul Dwyer. She had six more, same day, in a 13-10 loss to Holy Trinity.

Alex Schweinberger, Huron Heights. For one of those rare times, I'm at a loss for words. Don't know much about this young man, other than he's a rugby player and can kick. He converted all seven tries in a decisive 49-0 win over Markville in a York Region junior game.

Daisuke Suzuki, Forest Hill. He has the same name as the Japanese songwriter and actor, but our guy is a former high school athlete of the year. Played four sports for the Falcons. Now, it's baseball - and he's a pitcher with wins over Oakwood (8-1) and Harbord (9-0)

Natasha Tyzler, St. Joseph's/Wellesley. Opposing softball teams keep pitching to the '09 team MVP and she keeps hitting - home runs. She had three home runs and 12 RBI in her last two games. Big hit was a grand slam in a 22-13 victory over Community Hebrew.