



The coaching staff of the Canada Games Team led by Chris Whelan from Paradise, assisted by Jennifer Toope of Mount Pearl and Jamie Jewers from Paradise have made the difficult decisions regarding which 20 players will represent Newfoundland and Labrador at the 2007 Canada Games in Whitehorse, Yukon. Henry Power, also from Paradise, Director of Operations for the team stated, “I am confident that coaching staff have selected the best 20 players for our team and I look forward to the ongoing process of building our team.”

After having over 200 girls participate in zone camps, the staff invited 51 players to the POE summer camp. Included in this group were three underage players who were assured a spot on the U-15 team should they not be selected for the U-18 team that would attend the Atlantic Challenge Cup in October. From these 51 players 24 were selected to attend the Atlantic Challenge Cup.

Preceding the tournament the team participated in a camp in order to fine tune team systems and continue evaluating the players, as only 20 will be selected to attend the Games. Knowing that there would be four disappointed people after the event did not dampen the spirits of anybody at the camp and proved to be one of the best camps for this group of people preparing for the Canada Winter Games. The hard work paid dividends as the team brought home a silver medal from the tournament.

The next scheduled event for the team is the Mississauga Chiefs Invitational Tournament over the Christmas break. The team will convene Boxing Day in Toronto and compete from the 27th to the 29th of December, returning home on the 30th. The competition will be very tough as the team is registered in the Intermediate Division - playing against older girls with much experience. It is felt that this competition will be very beneficial to preparing the team for the Canada Winter Games.

Starting February 27th the team will reconvene in St. John's for a four-day camp. The purpose of the camp will be to review responsibilities and systems before departing for the camp. The team will also try to adjust their biological clocks to the time zone of Whitehorse by staying awake until 3:30 am and sleeping until noon. Practice is scheduled for 2:00 and 11:00 pm. This will simulate the playing times in Whitehorse. A few surprises lay in store for the players and the camp will motivate them to play the best they can in Whitehorse.

Participating in the Canada Games is quite often the pinnacle of a sporting career. It takes a lot of dedication to training and competition. We are so fortunate to have a terrific group of young ladies to represent Newfoundland and Labrador at the 2007 Canada Winter Games. These young ladies have worked very hard to be selected for Team Newfoundland and Labrador. There will be opportunities for athletic scholarships, there will be travel and experiences, there will be memories and friendships made that will last a lifetime. These great things will happen because of the support they receive from family and friends. We are confident that this group of ladies will grow up to be respected members of their respective communities and their experience with the Canada Winter Games will help shape them into the people they will become.

Congratulations and Good Luck to:

Kaitlyn Abbass

Alicia Betts

Nancy Caines

Danielle Collins

Kristen Cooze

Sarah Davis

Sara Diamond

Erin Earle

Alison Greene

Jenelle Hulan

Amanda Kean

Samantha March

Leslie McCarthy

Maria Powell

Tawn Rellinger

Hope Ryan

Chloé Tinkler

Melanie Tucker

Dawn Tulk

Peggy Wakeham

Goose Bay

Mount Pearl

Stephenville

St. John's

Kippens

Paradise

Bonavista

Shearstown

Tilting

Stephenville

St. Anthony

Bay Roberts

Harbour. Grace

St. John's

Goose Bay

Lewisporte

Labrador City

Mount Pearl

Port Aux Choix

Bay Roberts