

Rookie of the year

York University guard Laura MacCallum, a Paris, Ont. native now living in Oakville, has been selected as the country's top rookie in university basketball.

MacCallum, a kinesiology and health science student, accepted the honour at a Thursday night banquet in Winnipeg which was held in conjunction with the Canadian Interuniversity Sport (CIS) women's basketball championships. She is the first York University player to win the award, which was re-named this year after Victoria Vike great Kathy Shields.

In her first university season, the 19-year-old, 5-foot-7 guard made an immediate impact, finishing second in team scoring and seventh in Ontario University Athletics (OUA) with an average of 14.1 points per game.

A strong outside shooter who can also drive the lane, she logged over 33 minutes per outing this season.

"Laura has a tremendous passion for the game of basketball and a strong will to compete," said York head coach Bill Pangos. "She is willing to play any role to help the team win. She has been a pleasure to coach and I am looking forward to having her in our program for four more years."



NATIONAL HONOUR: Laura MacCallum receives the 'Kathy Shields' national rookie of the year award from the trophy's namesake, Kathy Shields, a former University of Victoria great.

Olympians to help at camp

The Provincial Women's Softball Association (PWSA) is holding a talent identification camp at the Oakville Sports Centre this weekend (March 18-20).

Girls ages 14-17 who play softball with a rep organization from across Ontario — including a couple from Oakville — have been invited to attend this clinic.

What is particularly exciting is that seven members of Canada's Olympic Women's Softball team will be instructors at the clinic as will the team's assistant coach, Glen Boles.

The Olympians will be in attendance. Some will be speaking and all will be available to sign autographs for young fans. For info on tickets, log on to www.angelsfootprints.com. Any Oakville individuals or companies who may be interested in sponsoring a table at the lunch or donating an item for the Silent Auction would be welcome. Please email rsagl@cogeco.ca or phone (905) 829-8109.

In conjunction with the clinic, a lunch is being held in Oakville on Saturday from 2:30-4 p.m.

Tickets are being sold and proceeds will go to a very worthy cause — the Shannon and Erica Deering Fund.

Shannon and Erica are two young Ontario softball players who were paralyzed in an automobile accident just last August, 2004.

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