

▶ OLYMPIC GAMES

Canada bats the best bet at Beijing

Canada's national women's softball team got off to a strong start at the Olympic Games in Beijing this week.

Simon Fraser University's Melanie Matthews scored two runs and batted in three runs in Canada's 9-2 win over the Netherlands Wednesday. Clan alumni Erin Cumpstone also registered a hit, while Erin McLean had a single RBI in the win.

Cumpstone also had an RBI in Canada's 6-1 victory over Chinese Taipei on opening day Aug. 12.

Canada plays the United States Thursday.

Canada's baseball team also had a win in its first start, blanking China 10-0 Wednesday.

In women's soccer, Canada, at 1-1-1, is in tough against world No. 1 U.S. in their quarter-final match Aug. 15.

Canada's men's water polo team faces Australia Thursday following back-



John Mahoney/CANWEST NEWS SERVICE

A long weight: Jasvir Singh of Burnaby gets ready to snatch the bar during the 62-kilogram weightlifting competition at the Beijing Olympics Aug. 11. Singh placed 12th overall in the competition.

to-back losses to Spain and Montenegro.

In weightlifting, Jasvir Singh of Burnaby placed 12th in the men's 62-kilo-

gram division.

Singh bettered his previous bests at last year's world championships, snatching 115 kg and hoist-

ing 151 kg in the clean and jerk for a 266-kg total.

Xiangxiang Zhang of China won the gold medal with a total lift of 319 kg.

Select field lacrosse program to expand in September

Two Burnaby Mountain Selects teams fared well at the Hobart College elite high school lacrosse camp in Geneva, New York Aug. 1 to 3.

The under-18 team, including Burnaby's Jaxson Lee, St. Thomas More student James Delaney and Burnaby intermediate A players Brian Gillis and Joshua Simons, won five straight games against top teams from Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New York, Ohio and Ontario leading up to the championship final.

In the final, Burnaby Mountain was beaten 9-6 by a team called Evil Empire.

The u-15 team of New Westminster kids Steve Ferdinandi, Connor Goodwin, Justin Goodwin, Anthony Malcom, Jaan Potiaev, Jonathan Rachfall and Reese Robinson, finished second in their division with a record of 4-2.

Following the camp, the top 44 tournament players were selected to play in

an all-star game at H.J. McCooley Field, home of the Hobart College NCAA Division 1 men's lacrosse team.

Six Burnaby Mountain players were named among the elite players, including first-year Grade 9 Selects Ferdinandi and Malcom. Also selected was Lee, a senior midfielder from Burnaby North Secondary.

The Selects fall program will be expanded to four teams this season. The freshman and sophomore teams will be competing at tournaments in North Carolina and Florida.

The junior and senior high school teams will take part in tournaments in Baltimore and San Diego.

The Selects elite fall rosters will be named in early September.

For more info on the Burnaby Mountain Lacrosse Association or the Select team program, visit www.selectlacrosse.com.

Hockey Hawks fourth at nats

The B.C. Hawks placed fourth in the A consolation finals of the Canadian women's ball hockey championships in Burnaby.

The Hawks, including former national women's soccer player Linda Milani and goalie Jennifer Price of New Westminster, were upset 3-2 by Edmonton Hectic in the bronze medal game at Burnaby Lake Arena Saturday.

The Oshawa Stampede blanked Toronto 4-0 in the all-Ontario A final.

The Vancouver Falcons edged the Lanaudiere Coyotes from Quebec 2-1 in the B Final. The Vancouver Sharks lost 2-1 to Edmonton in the quarters.

Runner storms to fourth place

Matt Sessions of Burnaby placed fourth overall in the Stormy 50-mile ultra marathon run in Squamish Aug. 9. Sessions ran the 80-kilometre distance in a time of 10:29.8.

★ ASTRAL REFLECTIONS by Tim Stephens ★ ★ August 17-23, 2008 ★

Aries (March 21 - April 19) Catch some last rays of pleasure, beauty, creativity or love - the earlier "danger" of these has ebbed. Your indecision about a hard, hectic job ends Tuesday, but Friday begins a whole month of work and health issues. This hints that you reach a decision now - probably to continue at that hectic job, or to work at something quieter, more deeply productive. Either way, work grows easier, more pleasant. The seven weeks ahead bring opportunities and "strong relationships" - you could join, split, love, hate. Be diplomatic, flexible!

Taurus (April 20-May 20) Your sluggish period ends Friday, when a month of creativity, romance, pleasure and beauty begins - soon, you'll ride a 4-week winning streak! Dive into duties Tuesday to Thursday; you'll perform well, and will clear your plate for more palatable activities. (And, you might subtly trigger an eventual pay raise.) All is not joy, though - the 7 weeks ahead bring intermittent but hectic/unwanted work or an irritating health issue (neck or head?). Strictly follow safety procedures. Your energy and charisma shoot skyward Friday/Saturday - a "busted relationship" favors you!

Gemini (May 21-June 20) You might make one last short trip before settling into a more sluggish, renewing pace (Friday onward). The seven weeks ahead bring a streak of romance, creativity, speculation, dealing with (teaching, raising) children, or risk-taking. You'll be determined and brave about this, and many small incidents will please and encourage you, but you won't really have the energy, the oomph for it, until October. So go slow, be willing to build a strong foundation. You hopes soar Tuesday-Thursday, as social delights arrive! Be quiet, retreat Friday/Saturday - accept disruptions.

Cancer (June 21-July 22) Wisdom and a mellow mood flow over you Sunday/Monday. Love, ambitious partnerships, marriage, social friendships - all goes very well with these Sunday daytime! Take advantage, cement a relationship, because by Friday/Saturday a new element enters which could strain these same ties, even break weak ones apart. Chase money Tuesday to Thursday - luck accompanies you. Talk, short trips, messages, paperwork and detail stuff enters Thursday to Saturday. The month ahead accents relationships; the seven weeks ahead also bring a streak of lust, money fever, research, and commitment.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Your energy and pizzazz continue high, but you'll soon turn your thoughts from being "on stage" to moving more quietly and thoughtfully - for a month of money issues arrives Friday. Sunday/Monday bring financial, sexual and health issues. If you dig deep you'll see the trends running under events and situations, like an underground river. Mid-week accents contemplation, understanding, and love. Be ambitious Thursday eve to Saturday, when some of those "underground trends" could burst into daylight! For 7 weeks, you'll tend to think and act hastily - don't!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Rest; don't worry about my prior "warnings." Rest deeply. You'll spy opportunities and distant horizons (in time or space) Sunday/Monday - be diplomatic, slow to react (and slow to jump on those "opportunities," too). Secrets abound Tuesday to Thursday - a bit of research, questioning or deep thinking could uncover a treasure of knowledge, intimacy or money. Friday begins a month of heightened energy, pizzazz, charm and effectiveness for you - it will be, overall, a time of wisdom, travel and love. Go! The 7 weeks ahead bring more money - bank it!

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Partnerships have held you back or dragged you down since early July; now they "right themselves." For 7 weeks ahead, you're going to simmer with extra willpower, magnetism, and sexual drive. You'll essentially be "in charge" of marriage, partnerships, and prospects thereto. All that magnetism might not glow too brightly Friday through September 21, as you'll be a bit more tired and sequestered than usual. But you'll be working your magic on a deeper level. Opportunities or a "viable partner" appear Tuesday to Thursday. Secrets, intimacy, "treasures" blossom Friday/Saturday.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) Okay, if you must be ambitious, be so now, Tuesday to Thursday - the weight from above, pushing you back, lessens briefly, and you accomplish big tasks, easily! Earlier, spend Sunday/Monday dallying with love, children or creative projects. Partnerships, opportunities and opposition come in Thursday to Saturday, and kick off a 4-week period of optimism, wishes coming true, socializing, light romance, and other uplifting things! Two lover-friends might argue: sidestep it. The 7 weeks ahead bring unwelcome chores. Smile and tackle them - they might ensure your job survival in 2009.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) The 7 weeks ahead raise your hopes about romance, or a teaching, creative, sports or child-raising/teaching project. It's a perfect time for a vacation, flirting, seeking entertainment - were it not for the major tasks being laid on your shoulders by parents or bosses from Friday to September 21. So either delay pleasure until September, or work hard, play hard. Present duties will have a beneficial effect on your earnings, present and future. (DON'T quit tasks, cheat or punch the boss through July 2010 - you'd have long-term difficulty with employment.)

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You could learn something significant by talking, asking Sunday/Monday. It's a perfect time to take a trip or write a paper. (Sunday's best.) Good "endings" come Tuesday to Thursday - rest, work on foundations, buy real estate, and/or hug your kids. Friday begins a month of wisdom, mellow thoughts, of travel, educational and legal success. You could fall in love! But Friday/Saturday also might bring a split between two friends, or a petty argument. Higher-ups will display impatience, temperament for 7 weeks - start looking for your sense of humor!

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Money's lucky Sunday (and less so Monday) - chase some! You might buy a prized possession, or make a lucky investment. Use Tuesday to Thursday to handle paperwork, run errands, catch up with friends, and take short trips. Now to October 3, strictly avoid lawsuits. The opposition of the last three weeks (if you've noticed it) now ebbs. Friday begins a month of deeper matters, of investments and finances, debt, commitment, research, subconscious urgencies, lust, dreams, mysteries, therapy and lifestyle changes. These will go slowly, so be patient. Rest Friday/Saturday.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20) A month of work dissolves this week, as Friday begins 4 weeks of relationships, new horizons and opportunities. There will also be some opposition, much of it subtle but strong, so you'll succeed best if you're diplomatic, co-operative, and willing to join others in pursuing their goals. Your energy and effectiveness soar Sunday/Monday. Sunday could bring a splendid agreement, new love prospect, or an opportunity via a social contact or partner. Chase money Tuesday to Thursday - luck accompanies you! Talk and visits bring either break-offs or new relationships Friday/Saturday.

www.astralreflections.com
E-mail: timstephens@shaw.ca
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