

SPORT



NEWS photo Paul McGrath

COACH Bob Chiesa, Gretchen McLennan, Sophie Dhanani and Laura Acutt, all of North Vancouver, travelled to Sydney, Australia in October with the Westside Shooters soccer team and earned bronze medals in the 30-and-over division at the World Masters Games.

field notes

Sherman a stopper for Mich. State

WEST Vancouver secondary grad Holly Sherman played a big role in helping the Michigan State field hockey team earn the first Big Ten regular season title in the school's history.

Sherman, a sophomore defender, played every minute for the No. 8-ranked Spartans as they knocked off 15th-ranked Ohio State 2-1, Oct. 23 and then topped Michigan 2-1, Oct. 25 to clinch the league title. According to the team's match report, Sherman played stellar defence to preserve the one-goal wins while also helping the Spartans run out the clock in their two victories by playing a key role in reversing the field and helping the team kill time.

"Holly had a very solid weekend for us and has continued to improve on a week-to-week basis," Michigan State head coach Rolf van de Kerkhof said in a release.

After Michigan State went up 2-1 over Michigan, the Spartans' defenders played keep-away, not allowing the Wolverines to register a shot for the remainder of the game.

Following the win over Michigan, the Spartans record was 5-0 in Big Ten league play and 14-3 overall for the season.

The Big Ten tournament runs Nov. 5-8 at Michigan State.

• • •

Four North Vancouver lacrosse players were recently chosen to play for the Burnaby Mountain

THREE TO SEE THIS WEEK

FIELD HOCKEY
Premier girls North Shore championship
HANDSWORTH VS CARSON GRAHAM
William Griffin turf field, 3 p.m., Nov. 3

FOOTBALL
Senior AAA
CARSON GRAHAM @ WEST VAN
3 p.m., Nov. 6

VOLLEYBALL
NORTH SHORE SEMIFINALS
6 and 7:30 p.m., Nov. 5, Div. 1 at Collingwood and premier at Handsworth

Over 30 and overjoyed

Andy Prest

aprest@nsnews.com

IF you see any 30-something women walking around the North Shore with big medals around their necks and even bigger grins on their faces, don't be alarmed: it's probably just some of the Westside Shooters masters soccer players who recently earned bronze at the World Masters Games in Sydney, Australia.

"I'm wearing my medal today at work," said North Vancouver's Laura Acutt, a 40-year-old Bank of Montreal employee who captained the Shooters down in Aussie. The team of 14 Lower Mainland women included Acutt, Sophie Dhanani, Kelly Vanry, Kim Hobbs, Gretchen McLennan and coach Bob Chiesa from the North Shore as well as Maleena Pardhan, owner of North Vancouver's Macey's Sports. The girls battled hard to earn their bling and they intend to show it off, said Acutt. The Shooters bounced back from a tough 1-0 loss in the semifinal to beat an Australian squad 2-1 in the bronze medal game in the 30-and-over division, the youngest soccer age group at the Games.

Shooters score bronze at World Masters Games

"At the end of the game we were just so thrilled to be going home with, as we called it, 'jewelry' around our necks," said Acutt with a laugh. "That's what the girls were all saying: 'I want to go home with some jewelry.' We were pretty pumped."

More than 28,000 athletes from 95 countries made their way to Sydney for the multi-sport competition. And although

events like the World Masters Games quite often have as much to do with which athletes live nearby as they do with determining which athletes are the best in the world — a vast majority of the participants in Sydney were from Australia — the Shooters put a lot of effort into fundraising for their trip and they are actually quite a skilled bunch. They claimed the Vancouver Metro Women's Soccer League masters division league and cup titles last season and are sitting in first place again this year. Acutt, the team's sweeper, has played the game since she was six years old and has suited up for provincial select teams as well as a provincial championship-winning Capilano College squad in 1987.

In Sydney the Shooters won five games and lost two, all but two of the matches being decided by one goal.

"It was a lot more competitive than what I had anticipated," said Acutt. They

See More page 39

See Kozniuk page 39

NS NEWS SPORTSWEEK VIDEO ONLINE — NOW PLAYING HIGHLIGHTS from OCT. 18-24 visit WWW.NSNEWS.COM or Twitter SPORTSWEEK

At this very minute, a child in need is contacting Kids Help Phone

He or she could be someone you know, a neighbour or a relative.



Being there is what Kids Help Phone does best. We offer a safe place for kids to turn to when they need us the most — at any hour, from any phone or computer and in any community in BC, however remote they might be.

Young people contact our professional counsellors about every issue imaginable, including bullying, physical, sexual and emotional abuse, drugs and suicide.

• 24/7 • Professional Counsellors • Anonymous & Confidential • Phone & Web Counselling

To learn more or to donate, please contact Kids Help Phone BC Regional Office at 604-267-7057 or via email at bc@kidshelp.sympatico.ca