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Sports

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On Deck

Native honoured

Maple Ridge native Carling Muir was named the female basketball Athlete of the Week by the B.C. Colleges' Athletics Association after she excelled against the Prince George Timberwolves last weekend. Muir, who stands at 6ft. 1 in., plays for the Langara College Falcons and scored 15 points against the Timberwolves last Friday.

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Blaine Barron

Making the leaderboard

Blaine Barron is sitting at number two on the digs leaderboard of the British Columbia Colleges' Athletics Association (BCCA) Volleyball standings.

The 6 ft. 2 in. Maple Ridge native from Camosun College is averaging about 2.56 digs per game.

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Showing off in North Carolina

Pitt Meadows lacrosse player Andrew Gresham made a strong appearance recently at the 2010 Charlotte Fall Classic.

The Freshmen Elite travelled to North Carolina from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 for the tournament, his team winning three of five games.

His team beat out North Carolina, but lost 8-6 to No. 1 Team Florida in the U15 Rising Stars 'A' Division semifinals.

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One player battles for the puck in front of the opposing net during a league game. Meanwhile, players (right) scramble in front of the net to keep control of the puck so the other team does not have the advantage.

Mitch Thompson/TIMES

Local Hockey Leagues

Nothing more Canuck than hockey

The men's and women's adult hockey leagues continue to grow and competition for ice time is fierce.

by Amy Judd
ajudd@mrtimes.com

Hockey is arguably Canada's most popular sport and with so many people wanting to play, regardless of level or ability, it takes some experience juggling to make sure everyone has enough ice time.

This is a feat of organizational skills Planet Ice league coordinator Mike Duddy knows all too well. The adult leagues started in

Maple Ridge in 2001 with 14 teams and has since grown to 32 men's teams and eight women's teams.

"As with anything to do with hockey in B.C., it's growing all the time," Duddy said.

Part of that growth is being able to manage the teams so that everyone has enough ice time. Sometimes teams have to play games really late at night during the week, and Duddy said everyone has a crack at the late shifts but it doesn't really matter because they really just want to play hockey.

"I think the rink is only closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and Superbowl Sunday," he joked.

Making sure the teams are all playing and happy can be a

busy job and Duddy not only has to deal with schedules and complaints but also any players that have been suspended. "Boys will be boys," he said, "and they do silly things. Sometimes players have a one-game suspension, maybe more."

When it comes to the women's teams, things seem to be a little less rough but by no means less passionate. "The women are there every weekend," said Duddy.

"They just love to play the game and we have women of all levels. That's just the Canadian way. It just grew and grew and now it's

going 12 months of the year."

Players can join up in teams or they can add their name to the Planet Ice board and look for a team that will suit them.

"As with anything to do with hockey in B.C., it's growing all the time."

Mike Duddy

In the winter, men's teams play about 28 league games with two playoff games, while women's teams play about 25 league games with three playoff games.

"The demand for ice is always there,"

said Duddy but as long as the passion exists he will make the schedule work.

Contact Mike Duddy at 604-467-2883 (ext. 224) for more information.

Hockey

Ridge Meadows Flames play best game of the season

by Amy Judd
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Ridge Meadows Flames managed 30 shots on net during their game Tuesday night, but only two managed to sneak by the Delta Ice Hawks' goalie.

Despite the loss, coach Tavis Eaton said Tuesday's game was the team's best ever.

"I expected we would go

through a learning curve at the start," said Eaton. "But on Tuesday night we played great. We played as a team and we worked hard as a group."

Perhaps one of the major downfalls of the game was the high number of penalties served by the Flames; 10 in total with five in the first period alone.

"I won't say we didn't deserve them," said Eaton. "We did and

we didn't. It was a bit of our downfall."

Penalties are always challenging, he said, because it takes some of the more offensive players off the ice and puts more pressure on defence.

Putting that behind them, the Flames will take on the Mission Icebreakers today (Friday) and the Abbotsford Pilots on Saturday.

Both are good teams and the

Pilots are the top of their conference, but Eaton said that if the team plays the way they did on Tuesday, he is confident they are going to do well.

"If we don't come to work hard and [we] take silly penalties then we'll suffer," Eaton said. However, he knows the team is up for the challenge and they have already showed how well they can work together.

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