

Pickering College swims their way to OFSAA



By Jake Courtepatte

All eyes will be on Brooklyn Wodehouse when she takes to the pool at OFSAA later this month.

The Grade 12 student at Pickering College enters the provincial competition as the reigning gold medalist in the 100m breaststroke, holding the title since her sophomore year.

And she shows no signs of slowing down: she took gold in the event at last Wednesday's CISAA championships at the University of Toronto to qualify for OFSAA, supplemented by another gold in the 100m individual medley as well.

Wodehouse began speed swimming in Grade Eight, after years of synchronized swimming training. A hip injury forced her to switch lanes.

Overall, four Pickering College swimmers finished in the top ten at the CISAA competition, a team which head coach Lindsey Rife called "a small but solid group of swimmers."

"They worked hard weekly at practice to improve and cheered each other on at the competitions," said Rife. "We had some top finishes which were exciting and inspiring to watch."

Joining Wodehouse at OFSAA will be Hayden Spiers, whose silver in the men's 100m butterfly and bronze in the 200m individual medley booked his ticket to the big event.

"The team is behind Brooklyn and Hayden as they head off to OFSAA," said Rife.

Spiers will be looking to avenge a 20th overall finish in the butterfly at OFSAA last season.

Joining the pair in the top ten at the CISAA competition were Peter He, who took the fifth place spot in the 200m freestyle and eighth in the 100m freestyle, as well as Grade 11 student Zeynep Eren, who finished tenth in the women's 50m backstroke as well as eighth in the 100m freestyle.

The OFSAA championships go February 27-28 at the International Aquatic Centre in Windsor.