

Barrie athletes off to Ontario Games

Shawn Gibson, SPECIAL

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BARRIE - The Barrie area will be well represented at the 2012 Ontario Summer Games, taking place this weekend in Toronto. Taking place from Aug. 16 to 19, the OSG is host to hundreds of Ontario athletes in close to 30 different sports.

The events will be taking place throughout the GTA at some of the city's more well-known venues. Varsity Stadium, Mimico Arena and Ashbridge's Bay are just a few spots that will see Barrie competitors try their best at bringing home some hard-earned victories and letting the rest of the province know that Simcoe County is a sports mecca in Ontario. Hardwood Ski and Bike might be an hour away from Toronto, but that won't stop the several cyclists who regularly use the famous trails from making the trip. Two of the athletes competing in the cycling event at Albion Hills Conservation Area are the Disera brothers, Peter and Quinton.

Peter has spent the last five years racing and becoming one of the premier mountain bikers in the province. At the age of 17, Peter is glad the OSG rules changed in order to allow him the chance to compete.

"They upped the bracket from 16 to 17 this year," said the Eastview Secondary School student. "I'm happy about that for sure because this is one of the most competitive events out there and it's an honour to go."

Peter's 13-year-old brother Quinton will also be trying to bring some pride to the household as he competes in his first OSG.

While the younger Disera is looking to having fun at the games, he knows that it will take a couple of years to catch big brother.

"Right now it's not much of a competition, but it definitely will be later on," said Quinton. "Until then I'm going to enjoy the adrenaline rush of the sport and concentrate on winning as many events as I can."

The Oshawa Skeet and Gun Club will host Midhurst skeet shooter Dominic Scuccimarri and his superb rifle skills. Competing out of the Barrie Gun Club, Scuccimarri, 17, has been busting clay pigeons, as the discs are called, for two years now.

"The president of the BGC got me involved with the sport a few years ago and I've enjoyed it ever since," said the St. Joseph's student. "Going to the OSG is really exciting but I honestly look forward to the basics of the sport itself. I am looking forward to having fun."

Scuccimarri is a rare junior athlete in skeet shooting and is a 93/100 shot; good at any age as far as the gun sport is concerned.

With girls basketball being so popular in Barrie it's no wonder that the OSG will see the female talents of the court in full force.

York University will be the site as the 12 regions of Ontario basketball compete for gold. Assistant coach Dana Campbell has been working twice a week with the team and says that despite the issue of a difficult training schedule, the girls will be ready for the competition.

"Our region is South Simcoe so we stretch out from Gravenhurst to Caledon," said Campbell. "We have been able to practice twice a week though and it we're looking forward to the competition."

Campbell has had the fortune of working with most of the girls and sees what the other regions in the event are going to run into.

"We have a lot of girls that are able to be leaders on the team whenever needed and we can control the ball well. Torri Pupek recently helped win Division 1 and helps bring a smart game as well as her ability to be vocal and loud when needed."

Other sports that will have a Barrie touch to them are girls and boys soccer, archery, triathlon and boys rugby. For more info on sports schedules and event locations, check out the website at www.ontariosummernames.ca.



Barrie athletes off to Ontario Games. Peter and Quinton Disera will both compete at the Ontario Summer Games this weekend in the GTA. *Contributed photo*