

# The Sports Commentator

October 2013

## Athletes of the Month

### **Junior Girl** - Sophie de Geode

Sophie has had a tremendous start to her athletic career at Oak Bay. She has been a member of the junior girls volleyball and cross country teams and has performed at an incredibly high level on both teams. According to Mrs Kubicek, Sophie has been one of her most dedicated and strongest runners this season. She will qualify for the senior Provincials as one of Oak Bay's top 5 females in all grades. This talented athlete has an incredibly bright future at Oak Bay High School.

### **Junior Boy** - Charlie Miller

Charlie has been performing on both the junior boys and senior boys soccer teams this season and has simply dominated on both levels. He led both the junior and senior regular seasons in scoring, averaging over 3 goals a game at the junior level and 2 goals a game at the senior level. According to Mr. Fast, Charlie is the best pure goal scorer he has ever coached at Oak Bay and has a tremendous future in the sport of soccer. He has been a treat to coach and Mr Garraway expects big things from Charlie in the upcoming Colonist Cup, Islands and Provincial Championships for both teams.

### **Senior Boy** - Taylor Chan

Taylor has been a major part of the senior boys cross country and soccer team this fall. He is an incredibly tenacious athlete and a very hard worker who is not afraid of the big moment. His natural leadership ability has been infectious on both teams. Ms Kubicek, Mr Fast and Mr Garraway all say that he has been a joy to work with. With upcoming Provincials for both sports Taylor will be a significant factor in Oak Bays success.

### **Senior Girl** - Gillian Briggs

One of the hardest working and most dedicated athletes at Oak Bay, Gillian has had an extremely strong fall season competing on both field hockey and cross country teams. As a quiet leader, Gillian embodies what we strive for in our Oak Bay athletes. With Island and BC Championships in the near future with both teams, Gillian will be looking to help lead Oak Bay to continued success at these competitions.

## Cross Country-

The intense season of cross country started up quick with the first Wednesday back into the school year. The team consists of over 80 athletes in all grades who have competed in 5 league meets that prepped the team well for island age groups and islands. In islands, which occurred just last week

the boys team placed second overall and the girls team places first! This means that our top 7 runners of each gender and age group (junior and senior) move onto the Provincial Championships. This vigorous season comes down to November 1<sup>st</sup> where these top runners are aiming for those blue banners! All members of the team enjoy the cohesive family atmosphere that bonds the team every practice and race. With the team down to 28 runners, and 6 days till race day, it will be interesting to see how the team cops with their high standards and goals. This weekends provincial race is in Langley where most of the senior runners competing will run their last cross country race. Everyone is looking forward to hearing those Monday morning announcements about how the team places!

Camille v.T.

### **Swimming**

The swim club is back in action for another year. Coached by Liz Bekker, a new coach and community member, and student coaches Caroline Wallace and Lauren McMillian, this team hopes to place in the top 10 in the province. Not only are there team goals for members of the coaching team, but also individual ones. For instance, Lauren, hopes to place well in the 100m breaststroke, just like last year when she came second in BC. Practices began mid-September and will go until early November, when the regional and provincial meets are. These practices run Tuesdays and Thursdays, but many of the swimmers practice on another schedule with their winter clubs. This year the team has roughly 40 athletes who will compete at the regional meet on November 2<sup>nd</sup> in Nanaimo. The top five swimmers in each race at the regional meet will qualify to go to provincials on November 15<sup>th</sup> in Richmond.

Patricia R.

### **Jr. Girls Volleyball**

This season, the Oak Bay Junior girls have two volleyball teams, both an A team and a B team, whose league's both officially started on September, 30<sup>th</sup>. Both teams are coached by Elaine, an NCCP level 1 volleyball coach, and a club team coach for the Victoria Volleyball Association. Alex Grant, an Oak Bay grad, also helps by coaching the B team. The A team is made up of 9 players, 8 in grade 9, and 1 in grade 10. Halfway through their season they are 3<sup>rd</sup> in their pool, meeting their goal of placing in the top 3 in preparation for a good spot to compete for the city championship, taking place on November 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup>. They also hope to advance to the Islands. They're currently practicing 3 nights a week and working hard as a group to reach their full potential. Twelve girls make up the B team who are also halfway through their season. Although they are in the bottom half of their pool, they are learning the game and having fun at their weekly practice.

Chloe C.

### **Sr. Girls Volleyball**

Oak bays senior girls volleyball team has had a very exciting season so far this year throughout league play and tournaments . Each player shows great passion for the sport of volleyball which is important when it comes to being a competitive team. They commit to multiple hours spent in the gym together each week practicing and improving on their individual skills and team play. This team has great aspirations to be successful especially being such a young team with only one

graduating player. They participate in many tournaments around on the island in places like Nanaimo, Mill Bay and Victoria. Sacrificing their weekends is no hardship for these willing volleyball players. With lower islands and hopefully islands soon approaching this energetic team is very excited to perform at their best so they can reach their goal of qualifying for the provincial championships in Penticton.

Morgan R.

### **Sr. Girls Field Hockey**

The senior girl's field hockey team is led by Ana Adams, Gillian Briggs, Caitlin Hastings, and Kinna Turner. They have three awesome coaches; Natalie Wise, Adrienne Shepherd and Kathleen Leahy. Adrienne and Kathleen both played on the field hockey team during their time at Oak Bay. There are eight players in grade 9 including Danikka Lloyd-Jones in goal. The season started off with The Friendship Cup at Shawinigan Lake School. The girls played really well for the first time as a team. There was also lots of playing time at UVic over the Thanksgiving weekend for the girls with Bridgman Cup. The team placed 11<sup>th</sup>, winning their last game in shootouts. The team had a great tournament and only lost to South Delta (who came second in the tournament) 1-0. The team has played Claremont, Reynolds, Mount Doug, GNS and SMU in league games and will play some of them again in Islands, which are at the end of the month. Go Oak Bay!

Kinna T.

### **Sr. Boys A Volleyball**

You would be able to tell if the Senior Boys volleyball team was warming up if you walked into the gym and heard 'PRESSURE' blasting. This song pumps them up for any game. But when the team needs more than just a song they turn to their captain, Kieran Atkinson for motivational words. These were needed during their first tournaments in Langley and Nanaimo. Although the boys had a bit of a bumpy start to their season, they seem to be getting over their rut. During one game they were down 13-23 against Lambrick and were able to come back and win. As Kieran would put it, "We were so stoked it was like we had won the BC title." As well as taking on a leadership role, Kieran was also awarded All Star at the Camosun College Tournament along with Noah Harris. Another player name Kyle Bourdon played exceptionally well and took home tournament MVP. As a team they hope to medal at Provincials and start wearing spandex like the girls! Good luck with the rest of your season!

Gillian B. Madelyn B.

### **Jr Boys Soccer**

The junior boys soccer team has had a great start to the season. They finished the regular season with a 6-0-1 record and landed themselves in first place. This top ranking secured the boys a bye in

the first round of the City playoffs where they will take on the winner of the Reynolds and GNS game, next Monday. The junior team is filled with phenomenal talent, which has been well-displayed in their regular season games. Charlie Miller, striker, has had an outstanding impact on the team, scoring 14 goals in 6 games. Along side Charlie, Andre Earthy-Find, the team's other striker has been excelling in his role up front. In addition, Jack Hill and Kobe Greaves have had exceptional performances in the central midfield position and Matti Grant has been a strong presence as the team's starting center back. According to Mr. Fast, this is a very talented and hard working team that has lots of potential to succeed within their upcoming games at cities and Islands. Best of luck to the boys!

Claire K.

### **Sr. Boys Soccer**

The Sr. boys soccer team, coached by Richard Fast and Brent Garraway, consists of passion, dedication, and an amazing work ethic. The combination of these three attributes as well as teamwork put the group in an excellent position for achieving their goal of placing well in BC's. Captain Mitch Wilson has led the team to beating GNS 5-2 after being up at half by 5, which is an extremely satisfying win for all involved. The boys have only lost one game but unfortunately had to forfeit 2 games due to an illegal player. With the team ranked 6<sup>th</sup> in their division, the team must battle harder than ever in the next few weeks to achieve what they set out to do! As do most teams, these boys thrive off positive energy from a large crowd, which means they look forward to seeing lots of support at their first colonist cup game this Thursday, October 24<sup>th</sup> at Lambrick. The Sr. boys definitely are progressing each time they play as a team!

Camille v.T