

# Sports

## Ryan signs contract with Cougars

Citizen staff

Liam Ryan is officially part of the Prince George Cougars' future. Ryan, a six-foot, 180-pound forward from New Westminster, has signed a standard Western Hockey League player agreement with the local club. The Cougars chose him in the seventh round (139th overall) in the 2015 WHL bantam draft. As a second-year member of the Vancouver Northeast Chiefs this past B.C. Hockey Major Midget League season, Ryan served as an alternate captain and recorded 15 goals and 43 points in 38 games. His totals represented a substantial jump from his rookie campaign with the Chiefs, in which he had eight goals and 29 points in 36 outings.



RYAN

"He's worked very hard over the past two seasons to put himself in this position," said Cougars general manager Todd Harkins in a Tuesday media release. "Since the day he was drafted he has continued to develop into a solid, impact player. Speed, skill and leadership are all major strengths to his game." Ryan helped Vancouver Northeast to a second-place finish in the 2016-17 regular season. The Chiefs' mark of 32-5-0-3 put them behind the Cariboo Cougars (34-5-1-0), who went on to add a playoff title and are now preparing to host the Telus Cup national midget hockey championship, which starts on Monday at CN Centre. In playoffs, the Chiefs were upset in the semifinals by the Greater Vancouver Canadians. Ryan, who skated for Team B.C. at the 2015 Western Canada Challenge Cup, is the fourth member of the Cats' 2015 draft class to sign with the team. The others are forwards Jackson Leppard and Reid Perepeluk and defenceman Jonas Harkins.



CP PHOTO

## Leaping over the Bucks

Toronto Raptors guard Kyle Lowry drives past Milwaukee Bucks guard Khris Middleton during the first half of Game 2 in Toronto on Tuesday. For full game details, see **SPORTS 10**.

## Locals qualify for judo nationals

Citizen staff

Team B.C. will be relying heavily upon Prince George athletes at the upcoming Canadian Open Judo Championships. A total of 17 local judokas will be wearing B.C. colours at the national tournament, May 25-28 in Calgary. Divisions include under-16, under-18, under-21 and veteran, and some of the locals

will compete in multiple classes. Under-16 competitors from Prince George are: Sydney Edgson (Prince George Judo Club); Tami Goto (PGJC); Isaac Kamstra (Hart Judo Academy); Ioan Frizzell (HJA); Asher Young (HJA); Lochlan Young (HJA); Matthias Schenk (HJA); Koen Heitman (HJA); and Hannah Gould (HJA). In the under-18 class, Prince George will be represented by

Ryan Russell (PGJC); Branden Edwards (PGJC); Davin Greenwood, (HJA); Kurtis Cormack, (HJA); Maxwell Young, (HJA); and Brooke Corbett (HJA). Meanwhile, Taylor Schaus of the PGJC will be on the mats in the under-21 group and Doug Gould of the HJA will battle in the veteran category. The list of team members was released on Tuesday.

## B.C. North a power at provincials

Citizen staff

With provincial bragging rights on the line, Williams Lake bowler Kevin McAlpine and his B.C. North contingent dominated the competition. At the B.C. Open 5 Pin Championships, held Friday through Sunday at Prince George's Black Diamond Lanes, McAlpine rolled to gold in the 21-player men's singles division, while B.C. North also topped the standings in the men's team and mixed team categories. The B.C. North women's team also ended up on the podium – in silver-medal position – and together, players from this zone combined to win the aggregate title. In men's singles, McAlpine was ranked second for Sunday's five-player stepladder playoffs. In his first playoff game – the semifinal – he beat Adam Brouwer of Fraser Valley South 226-210. That victory moved McAlpine into the two-game final against top-seeded Steve Cummings of Vancouver Island, and McAlpine was at his best with scores of 250 and 266. He had a 59-pin lead after the first game (Cummings threw a 191) and pulled even further ahead in the second one, as Cummings ended with a 239. Overall, McAlpine won by 86 pins.

**In the men's team tournament, B.C. North ... finished the 14-game match-play preliminaries at the top of the standings with 58 points. In the stepladder playoffs, B.C. North faced Okanagan in the final and won 6-2.**

In the opening stepladder match, Justin Therrien of Vancouver Island downed Michael Linsenmeier of Fraser Valley South 274-149. Therrien advanced to face Brouwer but fell 241-236. In 10 preliminary games, McAlpine finished with a 254.4 average, behind only Cummings (263.7). In the men's team tournament, B.C. North – formed by McAlpine, Iain MacRitchie (Prince George), Chito Tecson (Prince George), Chris Arnett (Prince George), Larry Richet and Alex Airey – finished the 14-game match-play preliminaries at the top of the standings with 58 points. In the stepladder playoffs, B.C. North faced Okanagan in the final and won 6-2. Okanagan, ranked third for playoffs, knocked off No. 4 Vancouver Island and No. 2 South Fraser Valley to get to the final. In the mixed team event, B.C. North's Kyle Parker (Prince George), Ryan Beaulieu, Richie Beaulieu, Lee Sheppard (Prince George), Amanda Macpherson and Angela Healey nabbed the fourth and final playoff position but then went on a three-match winning streak to claim gold. First, B.C. North downed third-seeded Okanagan 6-3. Next came a 5-3 decision against No. 2 Fraser Valley North and, in the final, B.C. North beat top-ranked Fraser Valley South 7-1 and 6-2. — see **WOMEN'S**, page 10

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