

Dunn shoots for Canada Games

Condor star takes game to next level, impresses the scouts

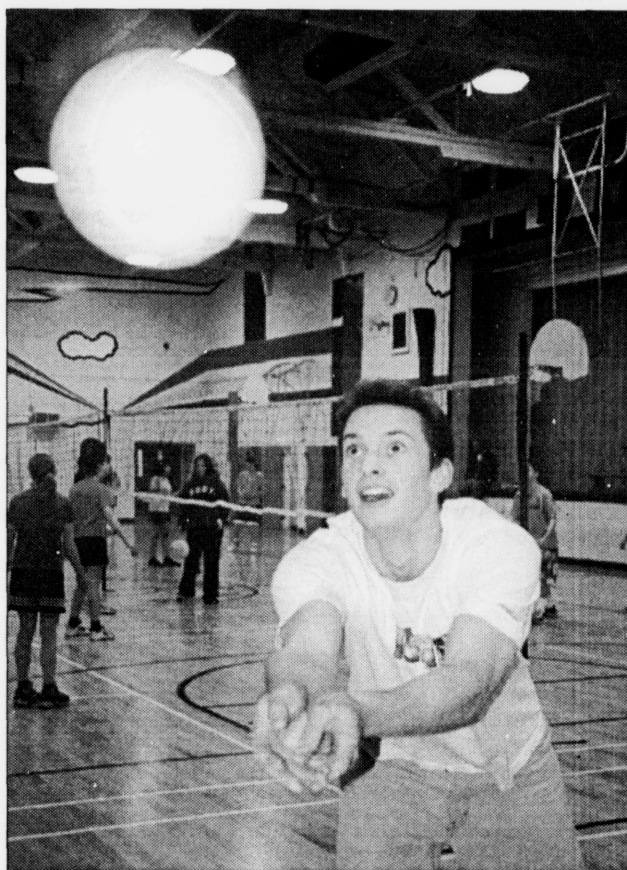
Darrin Dunn would have a hard time arranging a better way to wrap up his high school volleyball career if he scripted the ending himself.

Dunn has been a member of the Duchess Park Condors volleyball squad for five years and in that time the offside hitter has racked up countless game MVP honours and other accolades, including being named one of Prince George's Youth Athletes of the Year by the PG Sports Hall of Fame last month. But last week Dunn received the ultimate pat-on-the-back. He made the final cut to be a member of the BC Under-19 team and earned a spot competing in the pinnacle of national athletics — the Canada Games, August 19 to 25 in Woodstock, Ontario.

"It's a great feeling. This is the best in the country," says the 18-year-old. "It is going to be the highest level I've ever played at."

Dunn was a member of Team BC last season but the situation and pressures were different then, he says. Last year it was simply a few training camps and a national competition. This year, with the Canada Games on the horizon, Team BC will be training in Kelowna, Nanaimo and also overseas, either in Europe or Australia.

Dunn will also be getting a sneak-peak into next year when he joins a college or university team. He's gotten offers from the University of BC, University of Alberta, University of Winnipeg and other post-secondary institutions to waive his tuition in exchange for joining their CIAU or BCCAA teams. Except for two other high-school players, the Under-19 BC Team is almost completely made up of first-year college and university players, including the NCAA's Fred Winters. The Games are also



Duchess Park Grade 12 student Darrin Dunn has bumped his game up to a higher level. DOUG BROWN/FREE PRESS

a chance to impress scouts from the Canadian National Junior Team, who will be sending out invitations in the coming year for their training camp next summer.

Dunn is the third athlete from Duchess Park to be selected to compete at the Canada Games in the past six years. Volleyball star Jay-Anna Majors and basketball player Emily King both competed before.

Despite the offers he's received, Dunn still hasn't made any firm decisions about where he'll play post-secondary volleyball, though he's leaning towards easing into the next level by attending college before university.

"I'm thinking of going to Grande Prairie College for a year. There's still some things I want to work on before going to university."

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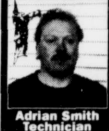
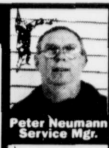
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