



Tamara O'Brien, 13, displays the four medals she won last weekend at the Canadian national gymnastics championships in Kamloops. O'Brien is one of a few young Tri-City athletes who have already been targeted by the Woody's Dare to Dream Foundation for hefty donations to their causes, with more on the horizon. Also pictured are Woody's pub owner Gordy Cartwright (centre) along with employees Kelly Anderson and Bruce McGregor.

CRAIG HODGE/THE TRI-CITY NEWS

## Making sports dreams come true

Woody's dollar donors to rescue

By Larry Pruner  
 THE TRI-CITY NEWS

Some contend if you don't have dreams, you have nightmares. Only sometimes, if you have big dreams, financial worries can keep you up at night.

That's where Dare to Dream comes in. Inspired by the motivational movie *Rudy* — a true story about a young, under-sized football player fixated on playing for the famed University of Notre Dame — Gordy Cartwright and friends recently launched the Woody's Dare to Dream Foundation, which is aimed at providing resources for Tri-City youth to enhance life skills and encourage personal and spiritual growth, along

with assisting to help achieve their dream. To date, Dare to Dream has supported two athletes directly: Coquitlam trampolinist Tamara O'Brien, 13, and 14-year-old Port Moody sailor Adrian Vlastic. Port Coquitlam hockey player Taylor Green, 15, is also currently being considered as a candidate for support from the fledgling do-good foundation. (Both Vlastic and Green have been profiled in *The Tri-City News'* sports section in the last month.) Last November, O'Brien received \$3,500 from the foundation to pay for a trip to Russia so she could compete in the World Trampoline Championships. Her mom, Tina Geulen, a single parent, said there was no way her daughter would have been able to attend the prestigious event without the aid of the Dare to Dreamers. "It's enabled her [Tamara] the opportu-

### IN QUOTES

*"It's not just a one-time thing. A dream takes a long time."*

**Woody's pub owner Gordy Cartwright**

nity to continue on," Geulen said. "Without them, I don't know where this would have ever come from. She's so focused. Each time she comes home she has something new she wants to try and do. How do you say no?"

O'Brien's latest achievement was snagging four medals at the Canadian national championships last weekend in Kamloops, earning individual silver and bronze in double-mini and trampoline respectively along with two team medals. Cartwright and company

insist they'll continue to support O'Brien as much as possible as she continues on with her athletic career.

"It's not just a one-time thing. A dream takes a long time," said Cartwright, owner of Woody's pub in Maillardville, whose group is currently looking at footing O'Brien's estimated \$1,500 bill to attend her next big meet, the Canada Cup next month in Mississauga, Ont. O'Brien is well aware that she likely wouldn't be springing toward her dream without the help of Cartwright's group, which includes his daughter Vicki Cartwright, Kendall Payne, Kelly Stein, Bruce McGregor, Wendy Kusiar, Kelly Anderson, Doug Robinson and an anonymous donor who goes simply by "Jimbo."

SEE POMO SAILOR, PAGE A38

# PoMo sailor, 14, obtains buckets of help for trip

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A36

“I know somebody’s always there to help me,” said O’Brien, a member of Port Coquitlam’s TAG Sports Centre. “I’m really lucky to get to go on these trips.”

The foundation refuses to limit its giving to Tamara. Earlier this week, it announced it will dish out \$2,500 to Vlastic, with the cash helping to ferry him to Poland next month to compete in the European sailing championships. The Dare to Dream donation brings Vlastic to within about \$1,500 of being able to afford next month’s overseas venture.

“I am a bit overwhelmed and emotional... I am on the verge of tears,” said Vlastic’s mom, Branka, who received the good news about her son’s funding grant Tuesday. “The \$2,500 from Dare to Dream is huge.”

“It’s hard to explain the sense of relief and gratitude I feel. As a parent, you do anything you can do to help your child achieve their dream. But to think that a group of strangers will help as much as we parents do, it’s just unbelievable.”

PoCo’s Green, meanwhile, was recently chosen in the second round (26th overall) of the WHL Bantam draft by the Seattle Thunderbirds, and has his eye on playing Major Midget hockey next season in hopes of advancing to the major-junior ranks the following year. Green has been targeted as a candidate for funding from Dare to Dream, although it has yet to be determined if he will be eligible to

receive or accept it.

Regardless, Green’s dad Stu said he’s grateful his son has been considered for such a generous gesture by strangers willing to pull out their pocket-books to assist.

“They phoned yesterday [Wednesday] to say they’d be interested in helping and I said, ‘Okay, which one of my buddies is changing his voice and yanking my chain?’” Stu said with a chuckle. “When you hear people like this are out there willing to help, it certainly makes you appreciate what they’re doing and thankful that they thought of you.”

## PUTTING ‘FUN’ IN FUND RAISING

The Dare to Dream Foundation has a couple fund-raising ventures upcoming, including its second annual golf tournament Monday, July 26 at Westwood Plateau Golf and Country Club. Every participant is guaranteed at least \$100 in prizes and tickets are \$1,000 per foursome. Last year’s inaugural event raised more than \$21,000. To register, contact Shane McCardle at 778-899-0767 or mccardlemediagroup@shaw.ca.

As well, the foundation has planned a special closing of the aging Maillardville bowling lanes — built in 1952 and located next door to Woody’s — on June 27, with memorabilia such as pins and balls for sale to help the Dare to Dream cause.

For more information on the foundation and its fund-raising ventures, or to apply for assistance, visit [www.woodysdaretodream.com](http://www.woodysdaretodream.com).

## Ducks deliver bronze at club v-ball nationals

Coquitlam Ducks Under-15 girls team bashed their way to the Div. 1 bronze medal at the Canadian national club volleyball championships in Calgary on the May long weekend.

The Ducks defeated Alberta’s Sherwood Park Heat 25-16, 25-23 to take third spot, after they fell 19-

25, 20-25 to the Calgary Dinos in the semifinals.

Before that, the Ducks won three straight round-robin games before handling the Vancouver Sting 25-13, 25-7; Abbotsford CVC 23-25, 25-12, 15-4 and Edmonton NAVC 25-18, 25-22. Ducks setter Samantha Thompson was named a tourney all-star.