

2016-17 - Nicole

Nicole played with the Brantford Girls Hockey Association in 2016-17 season



Nicole with Atom B team

Nicole Kelly Visits Atom B & Pee wee B Ice Cats

31-Mar-2019
Big thank you to Nicole Kelly, world juniors gold medalist came out tonight to skate with our Atom B and Pee wee B rep team tonight. Super awesome to show our girls if you give your all where you can go in your hockey career.



Nicole with Pee wee B team

Excited to play for Canada

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Brantford hockey player Nicole Kelly had good reason to feeling anxious earlier this week.

Kelly was recently named to Canada's under-18 women's hockey team that is scheduled to play a series of three games against the United States.

And, although she's been in high-pressure situations before, this one is different because, for the first time, she'll be wearing the maple leaf on her jersey.

"I'm kind of nervous," said the 17-year-old daughter of Rob and Jayne.

"The first game playing with the jersey on against the U.S., it's nerve-racking but very exciting."

Kelly and the rest of the players on the Canadian roster were slated to play in Calgary on Thursday night before finishing the series with games on Friday and Sunday.

Growing up, Kelly started playing in the Brantford Church Hockey League before moving to the Brantford Minor Hockey Association. She also played for the Brantford Girls Hockey Association, winning the Esso Cup Canadian midget national championship in 2016.

Last season, the forward played for the Etobicoke Junior Dolphins in the Provincial Women's Hockey League. She'll looking forward to returning for a second seasons after getting used to the pace of play, intensity and the size and experience of the players.

"It was lots of fun," she said of her first year in Etobicoke. "We did pretty well. We made it to the second round of playoffs."

"My coach (Joe Butkevich) really helped me with my play and getting me to the next level."

Kelly, who also played last year for Ontario when it won silver at the national championship in Quebec, received word last spring from Hockey Canada about the under-18 team.

"It was really big," she said. "When I first got the email, I was put on the short list because I hadn't done any fitness testing or anything because I wasn't medically cleared.

"I had a heart problem that the doctors were still trying to figure out. I'm good (now)."

About 40 players were invited to Calgary last week for a training camp. Kelly could lean on Brantford's Emily Rickwood, who played on the under-18 team a year ago.

The two attended Brantford Collegiate Institute together and work out together at Athlete Farm Training.

Kelly said the camp was "really tough.

"The days were really long," she said. "There was so much going on and a lot of eyes were watching you.

"I thought I did pretty well. I had some really good games but there was one where I didn't have my best game. I just tried other ways to get noticed and standout."

Kelly was one of 23 players named to the under-18 team on Sunday.

Following the series against the U.S., players will be monitored and then, early in the fall, a team will be named that will compete at the IIHF Under-18 Women's World Championship in Japan in January.

Making that team would be "unreal," said Kelly.

"It would be something special for sure. To even just be here right now is amazing."

Kelly will be back at BCI in September for Grade 12. And then the plan is to attend the NCAA's University of New Hampshire, where she'll go to school on scholarship.

Rickwood is entering her freshman year at New Hampshire next month.

"I'm pretty excited," said Kelly. "It's coming quick."

Kelly said she'd like to remain on the ice for as long as possible.

"I would definitely like to keep playing hockey for the rest of my life."

ICE CHIPS . . . The Canadian Women's National Development Team (under-22) is also playing a series against the U.S. After winning bronze at the under-18 world championships last year, Rickwood was invited to the camp but didn't make the team. However, Rickwood was in tough as one of the younger players at camp and only two players in the defenceman's 2000 birth year were selected for the team – and all the team's defencemen have 1997 or 1998 birth years.



Brantford's Nicole Kelly is playing for the national team at the 2019 IIHF under-18 Women's World Championship in Japan.

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Brantford's Nicole Kelly and her Canadian teammates are 1-1 at the 2019 IIHF under-18 Women's World Championship in Japan.

After opening the tournament with a 2-1 win against Sweden, Canada was edged 3-2 by the United States.

The Canadians led the U.S. 2-0 early in the second period of their second game before losing the lead.

Canada is scheduled to play Russia on Wednesday in its next game.

Kelly is a 17-year-old student at Brantford Collegiate Institute. The forward plays for Etobicoke in the Provincial Women's Hockey League.

She will be going to the University of New Hampshire in September on a scholarship.

Kelly wins gold at world hockey championship

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Brantford's Nicole Kelly holds up the championship trophy after Canada's national under-18 women's hockey team captured gold with a 3-2 overtime win against the United States in January at the IIHF world championships in Japan.

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