

Ringette players aim for Team B.C. roster spots

They have already taken the first three steps. With each one, they have gotten closer and closer to wearing Team B.C. uniforms at the 2007 Canada Winter Games.

Local ringette stars Gillian Missellbrook, Nicole Crandell and Stephanie Crandell will be in Vancouver on the Dec. 17-18 weekend for a provincial team selection camp. With the 2007 Games in Whitehorse, Yukon, as the big prize, Missellbrook and the Crandell sisters will be three of 43 players gunning for 17 roster spots on Team B.C.

"The chances of these girls making it is very, very slim because there are some strong players," said Maddie Crandell, coach of the Prince George Summit Power Tools belle all-star team for which the three girls skate. "But, the experience is just unbelievable."

Missellbrook and the Crandell sisters have al-

ready attended evaluation camps in Prince George, Vancouver and Vernon. At the conclusion of the next camp, all 43 players will be given training programs to follow. How well they follow those programs could go a long way in determining who the final 17 will be.

"They will be working with a trainer after the new year and then go back (for evaluation) in May," Maddie Crandell said. "They will take it from there and say, 'Did you do what you were supposed to do?'"

Missellbrook and Nicole Crandell are both 17, while Stephanie Crandell is 15 but is competing in a higher age group because of her advanced skill.

"They are strong skaters and have good game sense," said Maddie Crandell. "They see the ice well. Nicole is trying for defence (on Team B.C.) and then Gill and Stephanie are trying for forward."