

Gunning for the Games

Girls set their sights on Team BC and the Canada Winter Games

HARPREET SIDHU

Free Press

When the 2007 Canada Winter games get underway in Whitehorse, three Prince George Ringette Association athletes are hoping to be front and centre.

Nicole Crandell, Stephanie Crandell and Gillian Missellbrook are hoping they will be among the 20 players that make the final cut.

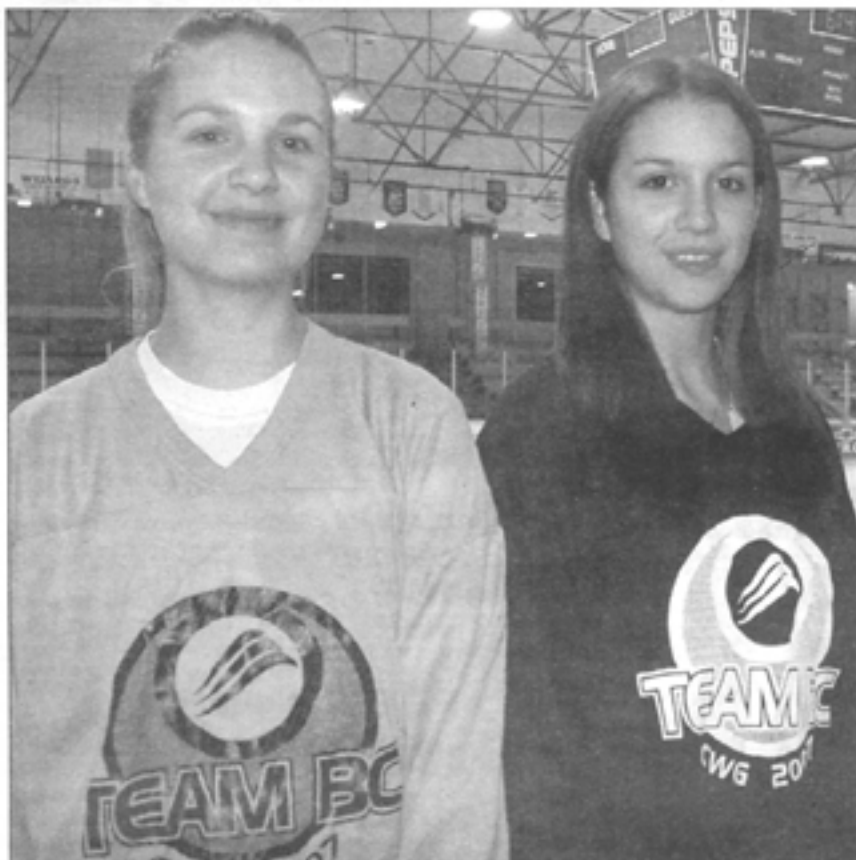
They are competing with 40 other girls for a spot on the team, which has been holding monthly training camps since September. This weekend will be one more test for the trio as they head to Vancouver for the final training camp of the year.

"We've been playing a lot of games at the tryouts and doing a lot of fitness testing," said Nicole, 17. If she makes the final cut Nicole will be one of the older players on the team. On the flip side of the coin her sister Stephanie, 15, is the youngest at the tryouts.

"It's been a great experience," said Stephanie. The three play together on the Prince George Belles.

This year Stephanie is also playing AA ringette for the Thompson Okanagan Torros.

"I went to Western Canadians last year with the Torros. They picked me up last year and I'm playing with them this year again. I'm going to go to a couple of tournaments with them," said Step-



Harpreet SIDHU/Free Press

Nicole and Stephanie Crandell head to Vancouver this weekend as they continue their goal of making Team BC.

nie, noting playing at the higher calibre has helped her game.

Nicole was part of the 2002 BC Winter Games Zone Eight team.

After this weekend the trio will

have to wait until May when the final cuts are made.

Then the team will spend the next nine months preparing for the Games.