

Mikaela Dodig strikes gold in Edmonton

The road to Canada Basketball's 2015 U17 Girls National Championship ended with a gold medal for Team Ontario and starting point guard Mikaela Dodig.

Team Ontario went undefeated over the seven games played at the Saville Centre in Edmonton July 24 to 29, and dominated the opposition by almost 37 points per game.

Dodig started and featured prominently in all seven games, and played all but eight minutes in Team Ontario's 67-55 win over Manitoba in the gold medal game. She shot an efficient 43.5 per cent from the field in the tournament including 10 for 21 behind the three-point arc. Dodig contributed elsewhere to the scoring effort with 22 assists and 10 offensive rebounds, on top of keeping opposing guards in check while playing her trademark hardnosed defence. Dodig's big game, however, came in Ontario's 76-32 dismantling of long-time rival Quebec, where she was a perfect eight-for-eight shooting including five three-pointers, and added three steals and six assists in 24 minutes.

Dodig was recognized for her consistent performances by earning one of five 2nd Team All-Star honours for the tournament.

'I enjoyed my entire experience this summer with all my teammates on Team Ontario, and achieving our goal of winning Nationals is the highlight and receiving an all-star award was just icing on the cake,' she said.

With her provincial team duties over, Dodig is turning her attentions toward the quickly approaching high school season where she will be returning to Ontario powerhouse Bill Crothers Secondary School in Unionville for her Grade 12 year and is looking to build on successes from the summer, while weighing up her many options for post-secondary basketball and schooling.

Dodig is now the second Caledon Cougar to win gold at the U17 national level with current NCAA University of Maine Black Bear Marko Pirovic first earning the accolade in when Humber College hosted in the tournament in 2011.

The Caledon Cougars operate winter competitive travel and house league teams, summer recreational and elite camps, summer AAU travel teams and player development opportunities for boys and girls aged six to 19. Tryout schedules for the 2015-2016 season will be posted shortly.

For more information, visit www.caledoncougars.ca

