



MEDIA RELEASE

TEAM CANADA ROLLER DERBY

ROLLER DERBY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Team Canada Women's Roller Derby announces 2017 team

Following two well-attended open tryouts, Team Canada Women's Roller Derby is proud to announce a 28-person team plus six development players, representing 17 roller derby leagues. They move directly into training for the third Roller Derby World Cup, expected to be scheduled for late 2017.

Emphasis on team play

Team Canada Head Coach Jessica Paternostro and Assistant Coach Bryan McWilliam made the selection, guided by one of the program's primary goals of building a cohesive team. Coach Paternostro states, "Team Canada is made up of athletes who are TEAM PLAYERS! Yes, these athletes have great individual skills, but they know how to take these skills to complement and adapt to their teammates. The Team Canada that is being built is all about competing as a unit."

Strong performances across Canada

More than 150 athletes traveled from across Canada and beyond to attend the tryouts in Rockland, Ontario and Calgary, Alberta in October 2016. The coaches were impressed with the overall performance of the candidates vying for spots on this third edition of Team Canada. Says Paternostro, "Many athletes across Canada demonstrated high game play skills, athleticism, and a never-quit attitude. More importantly, at both tryouts I witnessed a team-first frame of mind instead of individuals trying to look their best."

Introducing Team Canada Development Program

In order to promote development of the sport across the country, Team Canada is introducing a Development Program. In addition to the team of 28, six development athletes will train with the team and have full access to Team Canada coaching and training. The development athletes represent six leagues, five of which are not otherwise represented on the team, providing these leagues with access to Team Canada's training resources.

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Team Canada 2017

The 28 Team Canada athletes represent 12 roller derby leagues in Canada, the USA and Finland. Testament to the fast development and changing landscape of roller derby in Canada, only eight of these athletes have previous experience on the national team.

Name (Derby name, if applicable) – Home league

- Azure Benesh (Maiden Sane) – Terminal City Rollergirls, Vancouver, BC
- Alicia Biggley (Biggley Smallz) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Serenity Caldwell – Providence Roller Derby, Providence, RI, USA
- Lorianne Dicaire (Mange moi el Cul) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Sara Ekholm – Helsinki Roller Derby, Helsinki, Finland
- Alexandra Evans – Terminal City Rollergirls, Vancouver, BC
- Bethany Fisher (Boxcar) – Toronto Roller Derby, Toronto, ON
- Abigail Garratt (Preacher's Slaughter) – Calgary Roller Derby Association, Calgary, AB
- Yuna Guivarc'h (Falcon Punch) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Karlene Harvey (Buffy Sainte Fury) – Terminal City Rollergirls, Vancouver, BC
- Sarah Hipel – Detroit Derby Girls, Detroit, MI, USA
- Erin Hudson (Crazy Squirrel) – Tri-City Roller Derby, Kitchener, ON
- Allison Hughes (Surgical Strike) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Jocelyn Ingram (Sundown) – Terminal City Rollergirls, Vancouver, BC
- Renée Labrosse – Capital City Derby Dolls, Ottawa, ON
- Marilyne Lamontagne (Pouliche) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Abby Lever – Calgary Roller Derby Association, Calgary, AB
- Kristine McGillivary (Kris Myass) – Calgary Roller Derby Association, Calgary, AB
- Claudia Maréchal (Miracle Whips) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Tracey Mattinson (Cheese Grater) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Midori Ohtake (KonichiWOW) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Brittany Palmer – Terminal City Rollergirls, Vancouver, BC
- Paige Parsons (Shania Pain) – E-Ville Roller Derby, Edmonton, AB
- Melissa Perreault (Mel-e Juana) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Sophie Royer (Al K. Traz) – Montreal Roller Derby, Montreal, QC
- Taran Spies (Razor) – Chinook City Roller Derby, Calgary, AB
- Carla Smith (Scarlett Bloodbath) – Terminal City Rollergirls, Vancouver, BC
- Kassandra Sundt (Maya Mangleyou) – Boston Roller Derby, Boston, MA, USA

Team Canada Development Program players

Name (Derby name, if applicable) – Home league

- Allie Artuso – Royal City Roller Girls, Guelph, ON
- Kylie Morin – Dam City Rollers, Castlegar, BC
- Mai Nguyen (So-Viet) – Roller Derby Québec, Quebec City, QC
- Ashley Ronson (Watcher Ash) – Capital City Derby Dolls, Ottawa, ON
- Kelsey Sanders (Frank the Tank) – Mainland Misfits, Cloverdale, BC
- Natt Young (Scar2-BeatU) – Winnipeg Roller Derby League, Winnipeg, MB

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Team Canada training plans

The team will move directly into practices, with a training camp scheduled for early December. Between training sessions to be scheduled across Canada, the athletes will be following physical- and strategy training plans.

Some future training camps will be combined with bootcamps open to local roller derby players. Players interested in attending these Team Canada bootcamps should follow the team on the social media channels listed below.

TEAM CANADA INFORMATION

Web: <http://teamcanadarollerderby.com>

Facebook: TeamCanadaRollerDerby

Twitter: @TeamCanadaRD

Instagram: @teamcanadarollerderby

Roller Derby World Cup: <http://www.rollerderbyworldcup.com>

*Team Canada Women's Roller Derby eastern tryout included selected athletes Claudia Maréchal (#123, left), Mai Nguyen (#333, middle) and Serenity Caldwell (#33, right). Rockland Arena, Rockland, ON, 16 October 2016.
Photo: Henry Leung, delightography.ca*

