

## Kennedy native makes it big – for the third time



Two-time gold-medal winning hockey defenseman Colleen Sostorics, a native of Kennedy, SK, has been named to represent her country for a third time at the Olympics this year in Vancouver.

Todd Gervais 08.JAN.10

Colleen Sostorics never thought she'd end up in the Olympics as a young girl.

"I hoped I was going to be the first girl in the NHL, and play for the Calgary Flames." Sostorics joked, "The idea of the Olympics and a women's hockey league just never occurred to me."

But the Olympics did appear on Sostorics career sheet, as did two gold-medals. Now with the team selections announced last week, Sostorics will have the honour of representing her country for a third time at the international event.

"It's great to be on the team again." Sostorics said, "But it's just absolutely fantastic to be on the team in a year we play in Canada. I just can't imagine a bigger honour."

The feisty defenseman, a native of the community of Kennedy, hopes to make everyone proud of her as she goes to represent the country.

"There is a lot of pressure to perform well under the circumstances." Sostorics said, "Besides the expectation of success for us as Canadians in the sport that we like to call our own, the fact we'll be on home ground makes it that much more important that we win."

"But on the plus side, it will be nice to have a supportive audience." Sostorics said, "Having a positive crowd can really help a team along on the ice."

Asked if her previous experience in the Olympics will help her in the coming games, Sostorics was thoughtful in her response.

"Well every tournament you play is different." Sostorics said, "And the Olympics even more so. But I do think that being aware how the flow goes, and having a familiarity with pavilion life will both factor into how ready I am for the games."

Sostorics came up through the leagues in Southeast Saskatchewan, beginning in her hometown of Kennedy. She still maintains a tight bond with the community, and it is never far from her thoughts.

"Kennedy is my hometown, and they have always been my best and most supportive fans." Sostorics said, "I am always happy when I have a chance to shine, because I think that it makes a statement about the quality of people in Kennedy as well."

Asked if she had any advice for young hockey players in the region, Sostorics maintained that dreams can come true.

"If you work hard and play hard, things can happen for you." Sostorics said, "For the young girls and boys who play hockey, there is always the possibility of hitting that summit."

"If you want it enough, and you work enough, the sky is the limit." Sostorics said, "Dreams can come true if you work for them. So keep your eye on the puck and maybe good things can come."