

Ringette recruits headed for bandy championships

When Andrea Ferguson was playing ringette with a team in Finland from 2002 to 2004, her teammates would often play bandy as a warmup for their games.

Now the 22-year-old has temporarily traded his ringette stick for a bandy stick to lead the Winnipeg-based national team into the World Women's Bandy Championships, next week in Roseville, Minn.

"It was interesting that we had tried it (in Finland) but I had no idea what it was," said Ferguson, who was recruited by her father Colin, the team's general manager. "Now

we're leaving on Sunday for the world championships."

Colin Ferguson got hooked two years ago when he saw members of the national men's team practising the sport. With a world women's championship coming up, he recruited a group of elite ringette players — including his daughters Andrea and Ainsley — to give it a try.

"All 18 (original players) are still here," he said. "They have come an incredibly long way. They have become



KUIK

really quite accomplished players."

Six countries will be taking part: defending-champion Sweden, Russia, Finland, Norway, Canada and the host United States.

ATHLETES OF WEEK: Mark Kuik of the Immanuel Christian Falcons boys' basketball team is the *Winnipeg Sun* high school athlete of the week. The Grade 12 point guard holds the school records for points, steals and assists and he averaged 23 points, six assists

and six steals per game in the Pinawa tournament last month.

Kaitlan Robertson of the Strathclair Skyhawks girls' basketball team is the rural high school athlete of the week. The Grade 12 power forward and team captain averages 14 points and 12 rebounds per game and has led the Skyhawks to two tournament wins and a 19-2 record this season.

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