

Villanova sprinter competes in World Championships

By Jake Courtepatte

Maple resident and Villanova College student Arielle Tessier stepped up to one of the biggest stages of her life in her search for track stardom.

Tessier debuted on the international stage at the IAAF World Youth Championships in Cali, Columbia, competing in the 110-metre sprint event.

Racing against competitors from all over the world, Tessier finished fifth in her heat, registering an impressive time of 12.24 seconds. It was about a quarter of a second off of qualifying her for the semi-final race.

"It was close to my personal best, I was happy with my time," said Tessier. "The competition was amazing. It was so fast."

The soon-to-be 16-year-old was the second fastest Canadian in the field, behind Jordan Savoury of Montreal, who advanced to Thursday's semi-final with a time of 11.95.

"I learned so much, met so many cool people from around the world, and had a blast representing my country at the international level," said Tessier. "Definitely one of the most amazing experiences in my life."

Heading into her junior year at King City's Villanova College, the track sensation is already a two-time OFSAA champion in both the 100 and 200-metre finals.

As for her future in racing, the young sprinter has aspirations of international stardom after getting a taste of wearing the red and white.

"It was something that I want to do again and again," said Tessier of representing Canada. "It means a lot to have 'Canada' on my chest and I feel like it makes you want to compete even harder."

Having raced and trained almost exclusively in Ontario before the event, the trip to Columbia was a big one for the high school student.

"I'm so used to racing people within Ontario and within Canada, it was cool to see all the different backgrounds. Everyone has their own pre-race routines and it was cool to see all the different ways runners prepare themselves and race."

Outside of racing for team Canada, Tessier competes with the Project Athletics Track and Field Club.