

MY LIFE AS A RINK RAT

Hi, my name is Quinn Leslie. I am nine years old and in grade 4 at Blackie School. When I started skating I was 2 years old. My brother was playing hockey and I wanted to skate too so my mom let me go in canskate. When I was little I spent most of the time on my butt being pulled around with a hoola hoop by my coaches. It was a lot of fun. I also used to like dressing up in my brother's hockey equipment all the time.

When I was 5 I started to play hockey for the Blackie Tigers. My Dad used to call me the breakaway queen because I scored a bunch of goals on breakaways. Right now I play on a boy's atom team and once in a while I get to play on a peewee girl's team. It is a lot of fun, playing with boys and girls. My favourite thing about hockey is getting goals and rubbing kids off the puck. At hockey practice I like to try and body check my friends and have lots of fun. At hockey games I don't care if we win or not. I care if the team had as much fun as me and no one has been put down. I like to have fun with my best friend Kylie. This year we have only won one game. We are tier 5. I have got 2 goals and I'm not sure how many assists.

I also figure skate. I have a really good coach who helps me a lot. Right now I am working on getting my axel. Some older kids can't believe that I am on my axel. Sometimes I land right on my butt and sometimes on my belly, it really hurts. I really like going to competitions, there are lots of good skaters there. At some competitions I have even won medals. Once I even won canskater of the year. Figure skating is really fun because I get to meet new people. I have a competition next weekend and it is going to be a lot of fun. I hope I at least place. My figure skating hero is Joannie Rochette, because she was brave enough to go on the ice and skate after her mom died. Sometimes my mom asks if I like hockey or figure skating better. I told her that I don't know because I don't want to quit any of it yet.

We have a little pond by our house that we skate on when it is winter. We play lots of shinny and sometimes just skate around being silly. It is fun to play on the ice with all the neighbours and our friends. Sometimes it is really cold and we get to have a fire and roast marshmallows and drink hot chocolate.

Haley Wickenheiser is one of my heroes because I really like watching her play. I got to watch her last year when she was playing against a boy's team in Calgary before the Olympics. The girls won that game. It was cool because my brother and some of his friends got to go on the ice in between periods at that game. I watched a lot of her games on TV when the Olympics were on. She is a very fast hockey player. I hope I can be that good someday.

- Quinn L