

# SPORTS

"Quote/unquote"

'Silver takes time to appreciate.'  
—Rebels' coach Kyle Stewart... see below

## Rebels forced to find silver lining at OFSAA tourney

By EAMONN MAHER  
Staff Writer

Three days of trading blows with some of the titans of high school boys' volleyball in Ontario and the Georgetown Rebels were oh so close to coming out on top.

They'll have to settle for silver, however, after bowing out three sets to one to Whitby's Sinclair Celtics Saturday afternoon in the Ontario Federation of Athletic Associations senior AAAA championship at Rick Hansen Secondary School in Mississauga.

The second-seeded Rebels, still soaring over their takedown of the top-ranked Mississauga Lions in Friday's semifinal (25-23, 16-25, 25-23, 25-23), took set one in the championship matchup 25-21 to the delight of the 200-or-so Georgetown supporters in the gym.

But the Celtics, seeded fourth in the 16-team event, began to take over at the net and converted defensive saves into points several times in taking games two and three by 25-20, 25-20 scores.

Trailing by as many as five points in set four, the Rebels, who hadn't lost a match in league or playoff action until defeated by the host Rick Hansen Storm in the third and final preliminary-round match Thursday, rallied from 21-16 down tie the score and had a chance to push the contest to a tiebreaking set, but a couple of controversial points went Sinclair's way and the Lake Ontario representatives triumphed 27-25.

"(The officials) see what they see and there's really nothing you can do about it," said frustrated Rebels' captain Jake MacNeil, who, like his teammates, was nonetheless gracious in defeat.

"We put out two really strong teams on Friday. (Sinclair) have a very good team and I'd say they've to eight or nine club players and a couple of rep players on their team. I thought it was a well-played final. We started to come back at the end but it was a little bit too late."

Grade 12 student MacNeil said he hasn't decided whether he'll move on to university next season or return for a fifth

year and has now switched his focus back to his beach volleyball exploits alongside doubles' partner Andrew Richards of London, Ont. at a World Youth Olympics qualifier in Puerto Rico Dec. 6-7 as representatives of Volleyball Canada.

Rebels' head coach Kyle Stewart credited graduating seniors Ken Kerr, Jesse Burwell and setter Robbie Abrams for providing solid leadership for this year's group. Georgetown's senior boys last captured gold at OFSAA as an AAA entry in 2000 and Stewart now has three silver medals at the quad-A level following runner-up finishes with GDHS's senior girls in 2010 and 2011. Georgetown's senior boys earned provincial bronze medals in Mississauga in 2007.

"Silver takes time to appreciate," Stewart reflected.

"Your season ends, you won a medal and yet you lost. The bronze is a win, even though it's below silver, but it's a win at that moment and you're elated. Silver takes weeks before you can look back and say, 'What a great season we've had.' With all the adversity we faced and the injuries, to get to the final and beat Mississauga in four sets, you have to be proud of this team."



Georgetown Rebels' captain Jake MacNeil rises to deliver one of many kills on the afternoon against the Sinclair Celtics of Whitby in the gold-medal game at the OFSAA senior boys' quadruple-A volleyball championships in Mississauga. The Celtics held off a late comeback attempt by the Rebels to win 21-25, 25-21, 25-21, 27-25.

Photo by Eamonn Maher



The Georgetown Rebels were seeded second out of 16 teams heading into last week's OFSAA quad-A senior boys' volleyball championships in Mississauga and that's where they finished, dropping a close match to Whitby's Sinclair Celtics. Pictured with their silver medals (from left) are: Assistant coach Keely Fawcett, Dylan Thring, Ken Kerr, Owen Martel, Marty Burwell, Robbie Abrams, Jake MacNeil, Liam Henderson, Brenden Grose, Matt Toebes, Reese Claire, Justin Albert, head coach Kyle Stewart.

Photo by Greg Abrams

## Raiders shade Sabres 5-4 but fall to Golden Hawks

The Georgetown Raiders were able to score a key victory over their divisional rivals from Buffalo over the weekend, but followed that up with yet another loss to a team from the Ontario Junior Hockey League's East Division less than a day later.

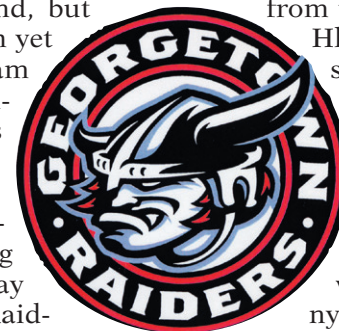
A 5-4 overtime victory over the visiting Jr. Sabres Saturday night helped the Raiders keep within nine points of the West Division-leading Jr. Sabres, also ending Georgetown's three-game losing streak.

The 13-11-1 Raiders then traveled to Trenton Sunday afternoon

and were defeated 6-2 by a veteran Golden Hawks' side, pushing their record to 0-6-0 against teams from the East Division. Steve Hladin and John Adams scored for the visitors.

Adams struck for a hat trick Saturday against Buffalo, including the winning goal at the 3:06 mark of the overtime period, with Hladin and Anthony Marra, who chipped in three assists, also finding the net.

In the Raiders' lone game this week, they'll host the Hamilton Red Wings Saturday at the Alcott Arena beginning at 7:30 p.m.



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