

St. Francis wins third straight spike title

Team effort nets crown



Sparkling spikers

St. Francis of Assisi captured the Halton Roman Catholic Schools girls volleyball title in Oakville on Dec. 3 for the third consecutive time. In the front are (left to right) Amber Lyons, Lori Lee, Lisa Fitzpatrick, Diane Benito, Kelly Campbell, Suzanne Wallace and Beth Crocker.

In the back are Nancy Fowler (coach), Michelle Cimmar, Allison Lipp, Chelsea Lumb, Suzanne Ewens, Melissa Dobbins, Andrea Cameron, Moira McGuinness, Kristi Kanapka and coach Tony Hansen. (Herald photo)

What local school has won three consecutive Halton County Roman Catholic girls volleyball titles?

If you said St. Francis of Assisi, then you're correct.

The Georgetown school made it three in a row on Dec. 5 when they upended another Georgetown school, Holy Cross, in the county finals at Oakville's Loyola Secondary School.

"It was a total team effort," said co-coach Tony Hansen, who along with Nancy Fowler guides the fortunes of the St. Francis bumpers. "We really didn't have a first string, everyone contributed."

The all-Georgetown final went right down the wire as St. Francis took the first game 15-9 and outlasted their cross-town rivals in a tough 15-13 final contest. "We always have tough games with Holy Cross," said Fowler.

The two squads met earlier in the season for the North Halton crown which St. Francis also won.

While distributing the accolades for a third successive championship season among the 15 team members, Hansen and Fowler did cite a few standouts.

"Alison Lipp is a real team leader," said Hansen. "Her setting, power-hitting and net play

really led us. Andrea Cameron is another leader at the net and she, incidentally, spiked the winning point in the final game."

Diane Benito, a Grade seven student who's been playing on the St. Francis varsity since her Grade six debut, also played strongly, as did Suzanne Ewens.

Three members of the team - Benito, Cameron and Moira McGuinness - have qualified for the area Ontario Volleyball Association bantam team.

Hansen and Fowler said volleyball has been a popular sport at St. Francis with players displaying a high level of aptitude for the game combined with a sporting attitude.

"They've been terrific to work with," said Hansen. "Even during a losing streak in the middle of the season the kids were in good spirits and never got on each other's backs."

Eight senior students will graduate from this year's squad and both Hansen and Fowler expect them to find spots on junior high school sides if they decide to continue in the sport.

"All of our girls who tried out for Bishop Rodrig's junior team this year made it," said Fowler.



Rising Rebel

Breaking through some tough defence for the layup is Georgetown Rebel senior basketball forward Mark Murnaghan during league play between GDHS and traditional rival Acton Redmen last Thursday

at AHS. Murnaghan had 13 points for the Rebels in their 53-42 win while Chris Burrell (right) led Acton with 15. Frank Katsilieris (behind Burrell) had a strong game under the basket for GDHS. (Herald photo)

Fishing schemes, Christmas dreams



LOON LINES and OIL TUBBLES by Len Landry

The door of the small cottage opened with a squeak... crack... crack!

Obviously, no one had been around these parts for some time, you thought, as a little embankment of snow and ice grudgingly gave way to your efforts of entry.

You were tired from your journey, and it was now very late. The snow fell softly outside the little Northern Ontario cabin, those intricate flakes touching upon and decorating the shadows of tall pines, and naked maple, and some six-pointed crystals ultimately landed and splattered on the cold windows of your temporary domicile.

How pretty it was, and how typical of Canadian winter.

You were inside now. With the flick of a lantern, a quick gathering of kindling and the skillful use of a match, you soon had a bright, happy little fire crackling in the fireplace.

"No smoke," you thought. "And excellent draft. They cleaned out the chimney..." and then you just laughed.

Everything was almost exactly as you had remembered leaving it on the last occasion. It was the typical fisherman's cottage, taking a brief wintery respite from the hurried and hurried times of spring, summer and, of course, lunker season: the autumn. The cottage was resting on this quiet and cold December night, but the little place embraced you, its visitor, with a friendly warmth.

"Brandy... I think I'll have one brandy. Then... rest a couple of hours... drill a hole in the ice and fish a bit... yep. Ah, they left a little brandy..."

And as you sipped on your warm drink, you glanced about at the corners and crannies of the cottage where fishing fare and fantasies had been laid to sleep for their season; at least, they would rest until the waters warmed again, for their owners weren't quite like you; they weren't ice-fishermen, and they certainly didn't like the snow and blow, to which you were so accustomed.

"Ah, we won't hold that against them," you said to yourself.

"But if Al Dalton had a Christmas stocking above that fireplace... Good ol' Al! God, he loves walleye... touch, nibble... wait... nibble... hook-set, fish on! Yes, he'd probably wish for simple things, like plain, Normark hooks; small sinkers; and a little cash in an envelope for some bait. Trilene fishing line... suits him just fine; six-pound test... well, that's about best! ...Hey, that rhymes!"

The fireplace crackled, as the brandy and your musings warmed you some more. You placed your tired feet up on a stool.

"Yep. Let's see now... of Gerald Clark, pike and muskie fisherman. He loves those Rapala lures... just about any size... they'll put a sparkle... into his eyes. And without intending... to sound too bold... I know he prefers the shades 'black and gold'... Hey, this is fun!"

You got up to put another log on the fire. The snow continued to fall

lightly outside the cozy cottage, blanketing the dark, rugged, granite shoreline along this frozen Canadian Shield lake. Inside, it was warm enough now, so you removed your hat and coat, but you never took your gaze from that hypnotic, dancing fire, and you never stopped contemplating, never stopped thinking those thoughts of the season. You settled back in your chair.

"Okay, how about Ian Dow, the ol' catfish hunter? Well, with stocking up there, he'd want bigger hooks... so the big cats would give him more frequent looks; heavy harnesses, tough line, and 'stink-baits' too... plus a draw-string and odor-eater... to counteract this brew. Ooo, not very good..."

"And you know if Manley Densmore had a Christmas stocking above that ol' fireplace, well, here goes... it would definitely be so neat and trim... just typical of a trout fisherman. It'd probably be adorned with home-made bugs, and it would have nice, small compartments, for the finest of plugs; wet and dry flies... all of them winners... and roe bags galore... lots of spoons and spinners! ...Hey, not bad, eh?"

You had another sip of your drink.

Now, you were really enjoying this little game of rhymes.

"What's that contraption... way there in the back? Why, it's a big Christmas stocking... an old burlap sack!"

"I know what they're up to. I know what they're wishing. You see, they like any and all types of fishing... They're hoping for lots, those guys. Howse and Landry. 'And while you're here, go ahead... and toss in some brandy! ...No, no, that's stretching it a bit. Sure was fun though..."

It was time to leave.

You got up from your chair, and checked the fireplace. You had one hour for ice-fishing. Your wife always liked these Ontario fish, and you knew that you couldn't disappoint her. You brushed off your fine, shiny, black boots - and tugged on your coat of crimson-red, a hue so bright that it seemed not of this world.

And you placed your hat carefully, back on your head... like your coat, it was a quite brilliant red... You fastened your belt, and tugged on your beards... and with a wave of your hand, all the stockings appeared!

"I'll need some light, there can be no doubt... it's so dark out there... is Rudolph about? Rudolph! Hey, Rudolph! We're going fishing! Then it's back to our home... just like you're wishing!"

Inside the fireplace beamed a soft glow... as off in the distance, you laughed. "Ho, ho, ho!"

"We must hurry, Rudolph... there must be no pause. We mustn't be late... for the good Mrs. Claus..."

SHORELINES: Have you got a fisherman on your Christmas list? Here's a suggestion for you: Go and sneak a peak at his or her tackle box, and look for the most-used, worn-out lures you can find. Chances are that these are ol' favorites... and doubles (or similar plugs) never hurt! I know that that's what I'm asking Santa for... Uh, right underneath that pair of Super Bowl tickets... Well, I can dream, can't I?

ON THE HORIZON: "Planning ahead for the new year." Have a safe, healthy and happy holiday and a merry Christmas!

See you in two weeks.

Short staffed Chiefs humbled by hosts

The Georgetown Domtar Packaging Minor Peeewe "AA" Chiefs had their drive for first place in Tri-County standings interrupted by Milton on Dec. 11 to spoil a perfect week.

On Dec. 6 at Memorial Arena the Domtar Packaging squad started very slowly and fell behind by a score of 3-1 before mounting a comeback to record a 5-3 victory.

Chad Hughes backstopped the victory and for much of the early going must have wondered where his offence had gone. Doug Sheppard dispelled any question, as he personally took charge of the game, and in so doing scored two goals and added two assists. Duane Erier chipped in with a goal.

Georgetown single goals were scored by Duke Bouskill and Scott Wilson, while Jim Katsilieris, Mark Aldridge, Jamie Stephenson and Tyson Hackett were each credited with an assist.

The Minor Peeewe's hosted Flam-boro on Dec. 8 and skated to a relatively easy 7-1 victory in a chippy and penalty-filled contest.

Sheppard again led the Chief charge with two goals and an assist. Three point nights were also recorded by Blaine McCauley with a goal and two assists, and Bouskill who earned three assists. The Domtar Packaging remaining scoring was handled by Stephen Onoprijenko and Yurichuk, one goal, one assist apiece, single goals by Stephenson and Glaser, two assists by Aldridge and one each by Hackett and Wilson.

Georgetown goaltender John Waller saw his shutout reined as the visitors scored a late third period goal.

In Milton on Dec. 11, suspensions and the holiday season left the Minor Peeewe Chiefs shortstaffed.

Duke Bouskill started the Domtar Packaging comeback by intercepting a poor Stoney Creek clearing pass and cleanly beating the startled goalie. Stephen Yurichuk deflected a Brent Wilkinson shot for the second Chief goal.

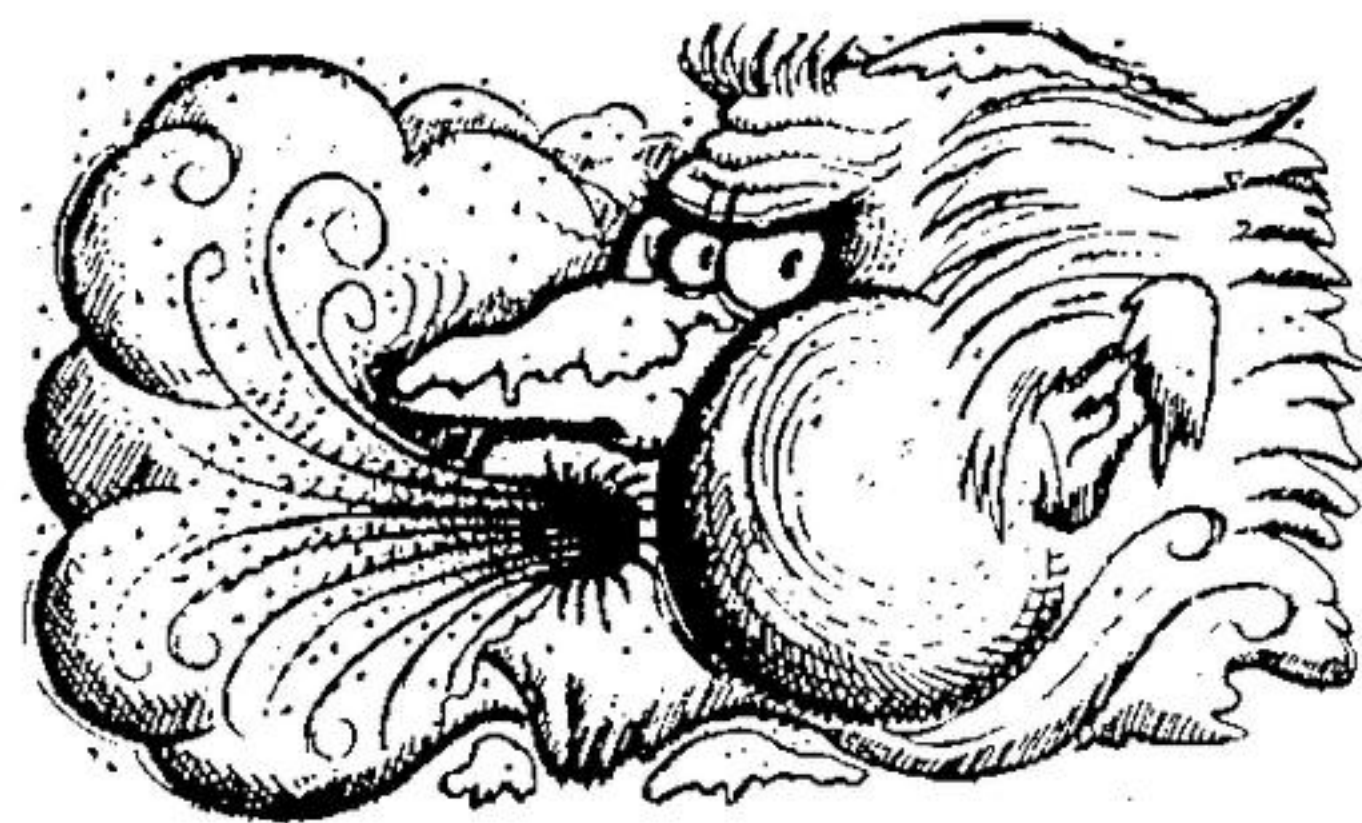
Jim Katsilieris scored the tying goal late in the game as he again intercepted an errant clearing pass and neatly beat the Stoney Creek goaltender.

In Ancaster on Dec. 3, the Domtar Packaging squad again had a field day as they overwhelmed their hapless hosts by a score of 11-0. The victory parade was led by Blaine McCauley with three goals and an assist, and Wilkinson who added a goal and three assists. Stephen Onoprijenko scored two Domtar Packaging goals.

The remaining Georgetown offence was handled by Scott Wilson one goal, two assists, Mark Aldridge, one goal, two assists, Doug Sheppard, one goal, Duke Bouskill, one goal, one assist, Katsilieris and Duane Erier three assists, Yurichuk one goal, three assists, and Gavin Glaser one assist. John Waller recorded the Minor Peeewe shutout.

The Domtar Packaging team will welcome the ailing Jamie Stephenson back for a busy schedule.

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