

# Koppers opts for Mac

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

With scholarship offers from a couple of NCAA Division I U.S. colleges tempting him, Brandon Koppers has instead decided to stick closer to home to play volleyball and study commerce for the next four years.

The 6-foot-7 outside hitter committed to McMaster University recently, during the same week that he received the Ontario Volleyball Association's Ken Davies Memorial Award while playing for his club team, the under-18 Mississauga Pakmen, at the provincial championships in Waterloo.

"There were a few reasons why I chose Mc-

Master," said the Grade 12 Christ the King student and captain of the Jaguars' senior boys' volleyball squad.

"Their sense of community and family was a big one. Just the way they do things in practice and overall on campus as a team, it really attracted me to Mac. Also, their phenomenal record (runners-up for the Canadian university championship this past year). Their coach (Dave Preston) is great and he's the junior national team coach too. Plus, I've played with a bunch of Mac guys when we were on Team Ontario together and I've really gotten to know them really well."

Being enrolled in McMaster's well-regarded DeGroote School of Business also played a large part in Koppers's decision, along with being less than an hour from home.

On the court, Koppers has blossomed into a frightening image at the net for opposing defenders because of his large wingspan and powerful spikes. Soccer was actually his favourite sport until age 11 when he started playing in elementary school.

He joined the Pakmen's house league in Grade 9 after his coach at CtK, Meaghan O'Brien, suggested that volleyball might take him somewhere if he wanted to put in the extra effort.

A couple of years later and a few inches taller, Koppers was leading the under-16 Pakmen to an undefeated season, with provincial and national titles on his mantelpiece. University scouts started flocking to his games. As a 15-year-old, he was named to the all-star team at the OVA under-17 championships and earned an invitation to play for the Team Ontario under-18s.

"Brandon is extremely talented but equally as grounded, and is able to maintain perspective in even the toughest situations," said McMaster coach Preston.

"His character is exemplary and it won't be long before Marauder Nation sees what a great ambassador Brandon is for being successful the Marauder Way."

While the soft-spoken Koppers prefers to **See KOPPERS, pg. 33**



Georgetown's Brandon Koppers was presented with the Ontario Volleyball Association's Ken Davies Memorial Award for best demonstrating the qualities of determination, leadership, athletic ability, sportsmanship and fair play at the provincial championship tournament in Waterloo. Joining the 6-foot-7 Koppers in the photo are his Christ the King Secondary School coaches Meaghan O'Brien (left) and Carla Favero.

Submitted photo



## Head games

Christ the King's Pat Tomczyszyn (22) wins a mid-air duel with a Bishop Reding player during a Halton Secondary School Athletic Association senior boys' AAAA matchup Tuesday in Georgetown. The host Jaguars got a first-half goal from Steve Kastelec that held up in a 1-0 victory to improve their record to 2-2-2 on the season, with just one match left in the regular season today (Thursday) at Nelson in Burlington before the start of playoffs next week.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

## Rebel duo fare well at OFSAA

The Georgetown District High School team of Brittany Langstaff and Wayne Fang finished in the top 16 out of 40 competitors in the mixed doubles category at the recent OFSAA badminton championships in Chatham.

The Rebel duo shook off

some nervousness to win their first match, then lost the second one and were placed in the B Flight.

They won their next two matches before falling to a team from southwestern Ontario that went on to place second in the B Flight.

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