

Sports & Leisure

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To win Marshall Trophy Highlanders work overtime

After steamrolling over the competition to get to the final, the North Halton Highlanders needed double overtime to edge Toronto Saracens 9-6 and win the Marshall Trophy.

Nick Daniels provided the margin of victory in sudden-death overtime. Scrum half Eli Craig set up the play, running the ball into the Saracens' end. Daniels then got the ball and sidestepped a couple of tackles before kicking a drop goal to win the game.

"It was fitting that it was those two guys set it up," said player-coach Bob Ford-King. "It was their leadership that got us to that point."

After finishing their first season in the Toronto Rugby Union's Premier Division with a 10-2-1 record, the Highlanders entered the recent tournament, which brings together 50 of the province's top teams. They rolled over London's Forest City 60-0 in their first game and then recorded their second straight shutout by blanking Toronto Welsh 32-0. A bye through their third game set up the



The North Halton Highlanders won the Marshall Trophy with a sudden-death victory over Toronto Saracens. Team members are: Jason Parker, Bryan Sullivan, Kyle Goodlet, Jim Katsilieris, Aidrian Schincariel, Dave Lipp, Bob Ford-King, Kirk Serjeantson, Eli Craig, Nick Daniels, Rob Elmslie, Wade Serjeantson, Mark Lamb, James Woodyard, Mark Shepherd, Marcus Noel, Sean Gaffey, Terry Potruff, Jeff Van den Hoek and Ted Van den Hoek.

final against Saracens, who North Halton had already beaten twice this season in league play.

The game started slowly but Highlander fullback Mark Shepherd put his team on the board at the 10-minute mark with a penalty kick. Though North Halton possessed a superior running game, Saracens used their size to dominate the scrums.

The Highlanders compensated for their lack of size, though. Dave Lipp and Jim Katsilieris controlled the lineouts to help maintain possession for North Halton. That paid off as Shepherd added another penalty kick to up the lead to 6-0. Saracens would get that back, cutting the lead to 6-3 with a penalty kick in the final seconds of the half.

Scrum ruled the second half, leaving the backs little chance to get involved in the play.

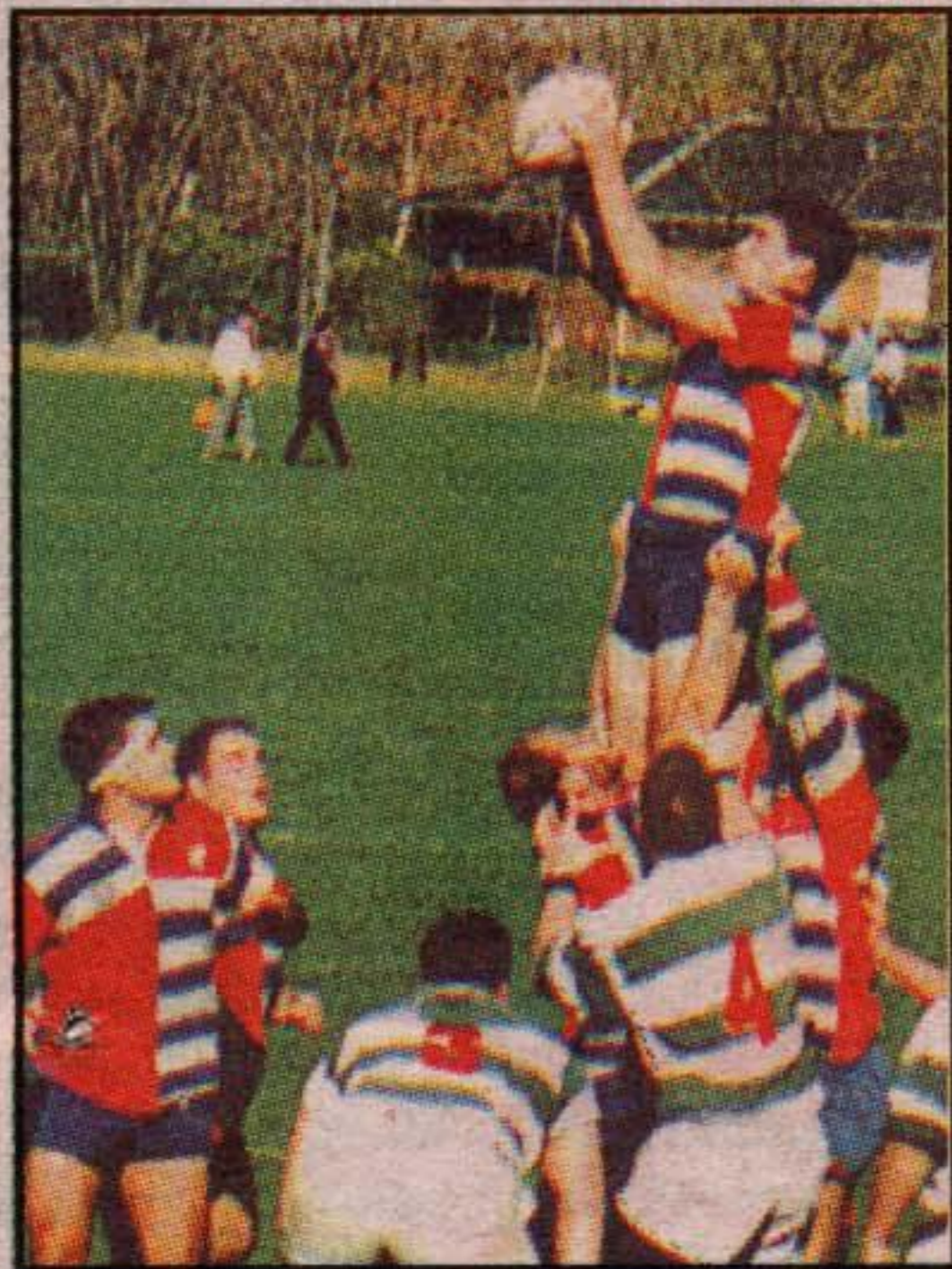
"It was somewhat frustrating," said Ford-King. "We have a highly

skilled team and we had the personnel there waiting to be used but we couldn't get the ball to them. We weren't able to use our strengths."

Late in the game, the Highlanders were awarded a scrum deep in Saracens territory but the Toronto pack was able to get the ball and deny the scoring opportunity. Then, with time winding down, Saracens converted a penalty kick to tie the game.

The Highlanders had the best opportunity in the first overtime. Shepherd and Rob Elmslie put together a run that came up just shy of the goal line. Finally, in the second overtime, Daniels' drop goal provided the points the Highlanders needed.

"We were confident, but it wasn't as if we went in expecting to win every game by 60 points," Ford-King said. "We have an experienced team, though, and we were dominating the game so we felt we were going to win."



Dave Lipp of the North Halton Highlanders corraling the ball on a lineout in the Highlanders 9-6 win over Toronto Saracens.

Raiders win twice to move into fifth

Don't look now, but the Georgetown Raiders have worked their way into a three-way tie for fifth place in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League.

Tuesday night the Raiders, and primarily goalie Jeff Hladysz, withstood an 18-shot first period assault by the Kilty Bs in Hamilton to post a 6-4 win. That win followed a surprise 6-4 upset triumph Friday over the Bramalea Blues.

Tuesday's win improved the Raiders' won-lost-tied record to 8-10-1, their most wins in a season since they won eight in 1993-94.

After Hamilton struck for a first-minute goal, the Raiders rallied on goals by Brydon Butterworth, Corey Brassard (shorthand-ed) and Stace Page to take a 3-1 first period lead despite being outshot 18-6.

Hamilton outscored the Raiders 3-2 in the middle frame as Peter Veltman and Mike Knoepfli scored for Georgetown before Veltman closed out the scoring late in the third.

Page and Curtis Carr each had two assists with singles going to Paul Dunning, Scott MacDonald, Ryan Fairbairn, Andrew Sandziuk, Rob Larose and Knoepfli.

Even with a much-improved team, the Raiders' victory over the Bramalea Blues on Friday had to be classed a huge upset as Bramalea entered the game undefeated (11-0-5) in 16 games.

Friday's victory also gives hope that if the Raiders hold on to a playoff spot, they won't simply be fodder for one of the league's big guns.

"We know we can beat every team if we play our style," said Peter Veltman, who had two goals and two assists against Bramalea. "We played good defensive hockey and we didn't let their skill players beat us."

The Raiders jumped out to a 3-0 lead, with Veltman and linemates Knoepfli and Gene Spadaro accounting for all three goals. Bramalea stormed back to take a 4-3 lead but Georgetown scored three unanswered goals and goalie Dave Digironimo came up with some big saves to shut down the Blues.

"We've set goals for each period for hits, shots and other things," said Raider coach Jay Anderson. "This was the best we've done in fulfilling them."

Saturday the Raiders host Burlington at Alcott Arena at 7:30 p.m.



Georgetown Raiders' goalie Dave Digironimo prepares to block a shot by Bramalea Blues' Lawrence Longo during the Raiders' 6-4 win in Bramalea Friday. Photo by Laura Salverda

Holy Cross' Doell repeats win in Catholic cross-country meet

Teresa Doell of Holy Cross won the Halton Catholic District School Board cross-country meet for the second straight year.

Doell won the tyke girls division

B race, outdistancing a pair of runners from St. Gabriel. Doell was one of only three repeat winners in the meet, which had over 1,000 runners taking part.

Doell wasn't the only local winner. Steven Bruce of St. Brigid won the mite boys division B race.

Candace Nogueira of St. Brigid finished third in the midget girls race.

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