

# Sports & Leisure

Wednesday, November 24, 1999

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## Rebels cruise to victory, advance to OFSAA tournament

By **HERB GARBUTT**  
Staff Writer

Only one step remains for the Georgetown District High School Rebels.

Now that the Rebels have achieved their goal of reaching the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) volleyball championship, they're intent on winning it.

The Rebels earned their spot in the 16-team tournament by sweeping Hamilton's St. Thomas Moore 25-17, 25-13, 25-17 for the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) title.

"We're playing well together as a team and when we're playing like that there's not much stopping us," said Jon Dubyk, one of three graduating players.

The Rebels have been tough to contain this year. They were a perfect 9-0 in league play and have tacked on three more playoff victories. Overall, the team sports 31-2 record, with their only losses coming in tournament play when the team was shorthanded.

The OFSAA tournament will be held Friday and Saturday in Kitchener. The Rebels will likely enter the tournament among the top four seeds.

The Rebels were able to avoid putting themselves in an early hole, as

they have done many times this season. In the opening game, the teams traded points until eight before the Rebels pulled away. They weren't seriously challenged in the second game and then kept rolling to complete the sweep. Prior experience against St. Thomas Moore from a tournament was also a valuable asset to the Rebels.

"We knew who their strong players were," Dubyk said. "We knew who to block and who to focus on."

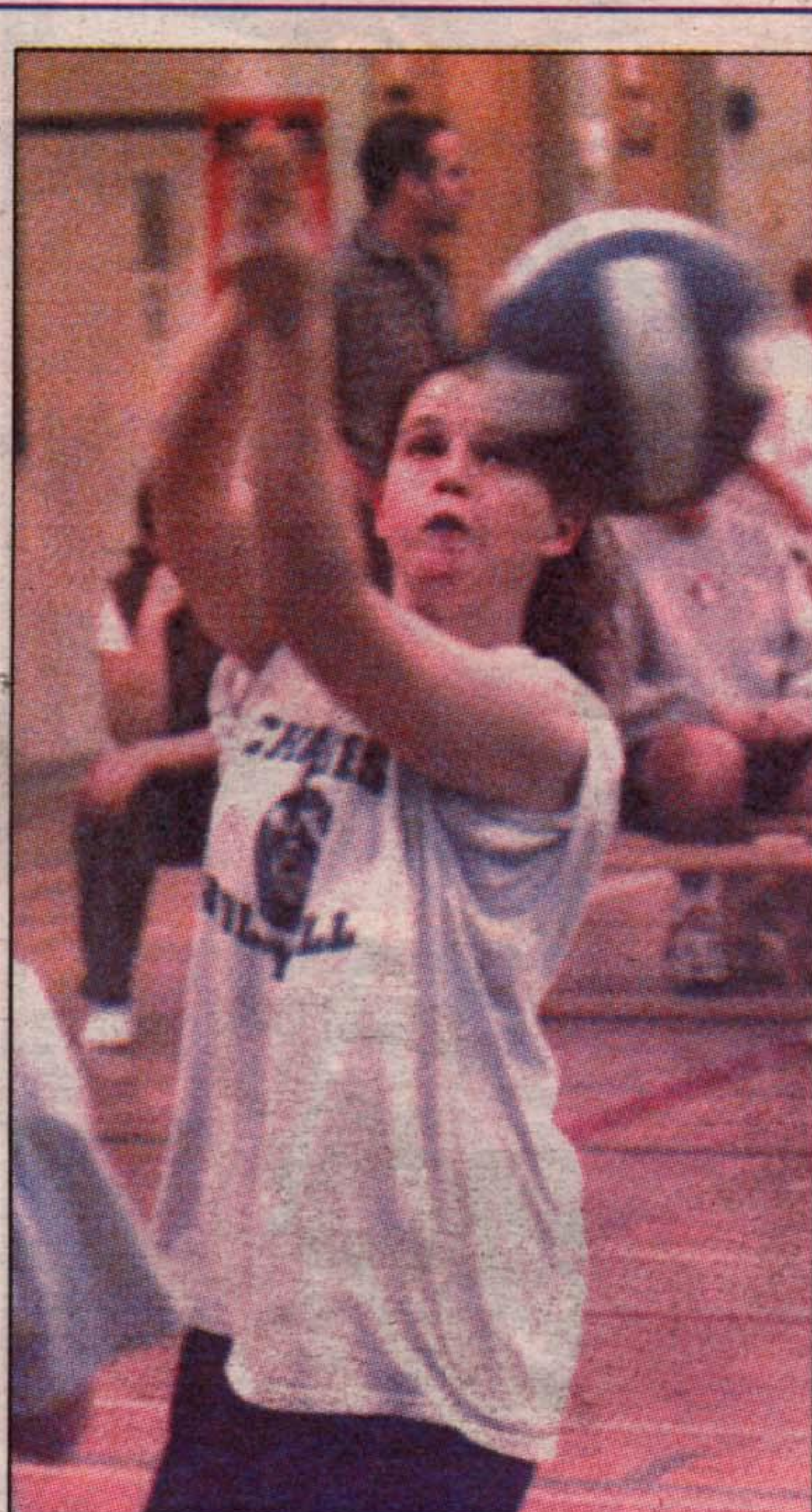
As for nerves heading into the provincial tournament, the Rebels should be as well equipped to handle pressure as any team.

"We've got a lot of current or former

club players so they're used to playing at an extra high level," said coach Jonas Kaciulis before the GHAC final. "And they've been successful at that level."

With so many strong offensive players, Kaciulis has had the team concentrating on defence this year. The team also boasts a strong bench that has allowed them to substitute frequently throughout the game. That has given the Rebels the ability to get the right balance of offensive and defensive players in the lineup.

"We can always have our best defensive players in the back court and our best offensive players up front," Kaciulis said.



### Eye on the ball

Kelly Longworth of the Centennial Chargers bumps the ball back towards her opponents in the Chargers' annual volleyball tournament. The Chargers defeated E.J. James 15-6 in the final. Megan Sproule was the team MVP. In the boys final Sam Sherratt captured the title by downing Centennial 15-11. Dylan Malchin was the Chargers' MVP.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

## Caps snap winning streak but Raiders still first

The Georgetown Raiders climbed a steep hill to reach the top and now they're finding out the road is still a little rocky once you get there.

The Raiders extended their winning streak to six games on Friday with a 5-4 win over the Mississauga Chargers but the Brampton Capitals brought it to an end by downing the Raiders 4-1 on Saturday.

Despite the loss, Georgetown (16-6-1) remained one point ahead of the Milton Merchants in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League's West Conference. Milton had a chance to pull even on Monday but had to settle for a 4-4 tie against Hamilton.

Though it was their first this month, the Raiders certainly did not resemble a first place club in either game.

"Brampton's not a fast team and we let them dictate the speed of the game," said Raider coach Jay Anderson. "We can't let other teams set the pace."

Saturday's game had all the excitement of championship lawn darts. The Raiders managed only 20 shots on net and generated few scoring chances. Even a goal by Jeff Seeds (for more on Seeds, see page 29) with 13 minutes to play, which made it 3-1, failed to inspire a team which scored eight times in the third period a week ago.

"We just about cost ourselves a win (Friday)," said Tristan Fairbairn, who had four points on the weekend. "Even though Brampton's a third-place team, we should have beaten them easily."

Fairbairn scored twice, as did Stace Page, on Friday. The newly formed trio, rounded out by Seeds, has been very effective. Fairbairn has 13 points in five games since joining the top unit.

"Playing with Seeds and Page is a good opportunity," the 17-year-old rookie said. "You don't often get a chance like this so I'm just trying to make the most of it."

Mike Knoepfli had the Raiders' other goal on Friday, a dazzling shorthanded effort that extended his point streak



The Raiders' Mike Knoepfli tries to dig the puck out from under Brampton defenceman Vito Montesano during Saturday's game. Brampton won 4-1 to snap Georgetown's win streak at six games.

to 12 games. But like the team's winning streak, that came to end the next night.

The Raiders also debuted a new goalie on Friday. Daryn McConaghy, who played last season with the Richmond Hill AAA midgets, stopped 29 of 33 shots.

Despite Saturday's loss, the Raiders did receive some good news. Raider centre Joe Tenute was named to the Team Ontario for the World Under-17 championships. Tenute has 24 points in 23 games this season.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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