

# Sports & Leisure

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## Reding's Butcher leads the way Six local athletes off to OFSAA

Christ the King, Georgetown's new Catholic high school, hasn't even opened and already it has a track star.

Ian Butcher, a Grade 10 student at Bishop Reding in Milton who will transfer to Christ the King next year, put on quite a show at the South Regional Track and Field Meet at McMaster University in Hamilton last week.

Decimating the midget boys 400-metre competition by a full two seconds, he bested the Ontario Federation of Schools

Athletic Association (OFSAA) benchmark by nearly three quarters of a second—finishing in 49.26 seconds. OFSAA records, though, can be broken only at the OFSAA championships.

"It was pretty amazing," said the soft-spoken 15-year-old from Georgetown, who claimed provincial silver as a first-year midget in 2001. "I actually didn't have that great of a start, but over the last 200 metres everything I'd been taught—opening up my strides and finishing strong—just went to work."

Butcher's 400m finish wasn't just tops within the midget ranks, but among all racers at South Regionals. He heads into OFSAA as the gold-medal favourite, having already beaten the number two and three seeds—Chris Taylor and Nathan Kerr of Clarkson, both of whom raced at McMaster Wednesday.

BR's 400m ace did admit to being a little nervous about heading into this weekend's provincial championships shouldering such high expectations—but no more so than last year, when he went in as a legitimate medal contender.

"It's a bit scary, but so was last year. I really wanted to break 50 (seconds) and I think I can do it again."

The 400m will be one of three races for Butcher at the OFSAA championships in Belleville this

weekend. He ran a 2:09.41 in the 800m to sneak into the fourth and final qualifying spot and helped the Royals 4x100m midget boys relay team take second 46.98 seconds. Rounding out the silver-medal squad were Darren Izumi, Mike McGill and anchor Mike Rubino.

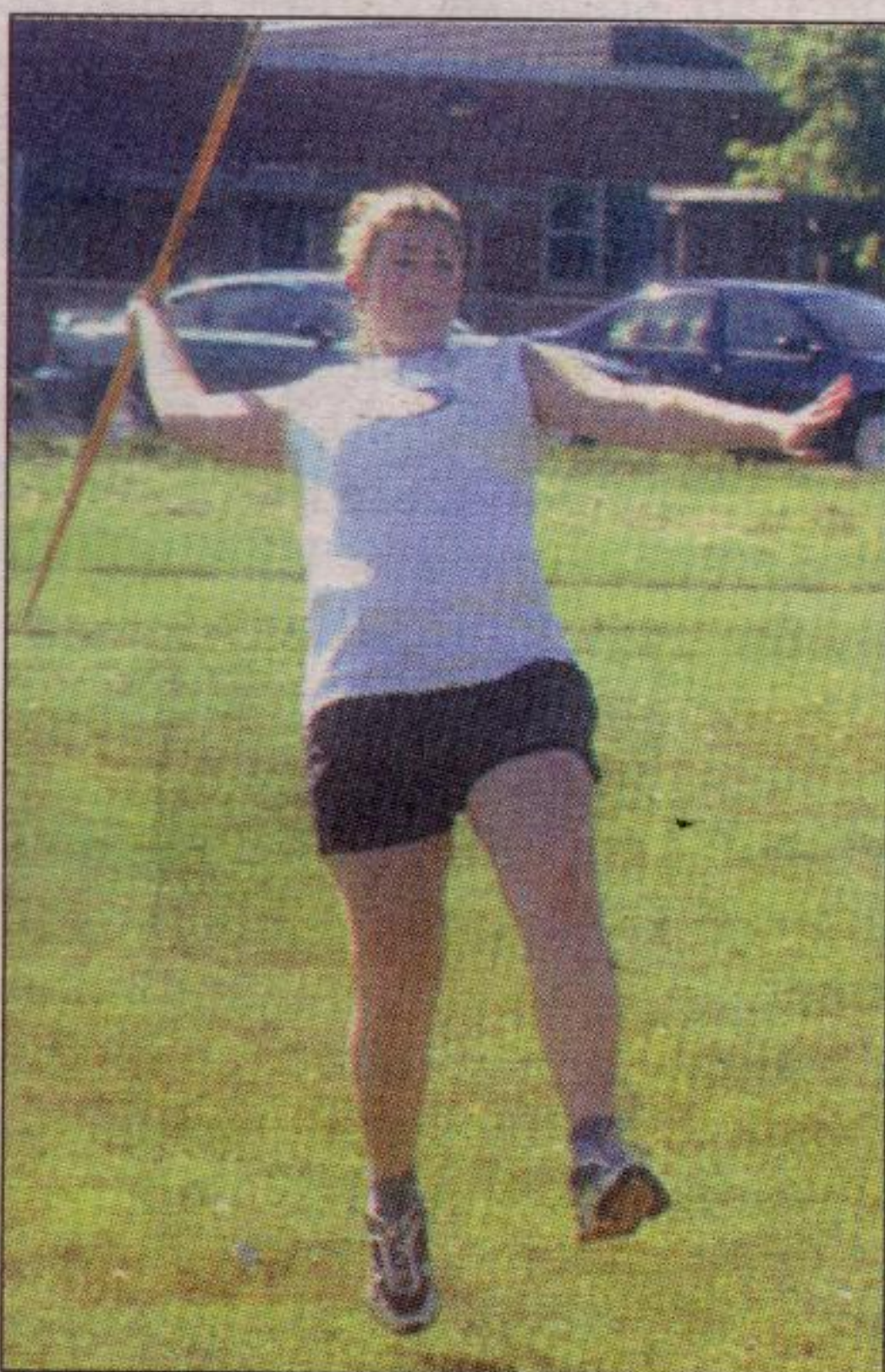
Meanwhile, BR teammate Chris Kargel was also victorious, turning back all challengers in the senior boys high jump by clearing 1.86m.

Kargel and Georgetown's Tim Mansfield resumed their battle in the senior boys javelin. After finishing one-two at the GHAC championships, they had to settle for the 2-3 spots at regionals.

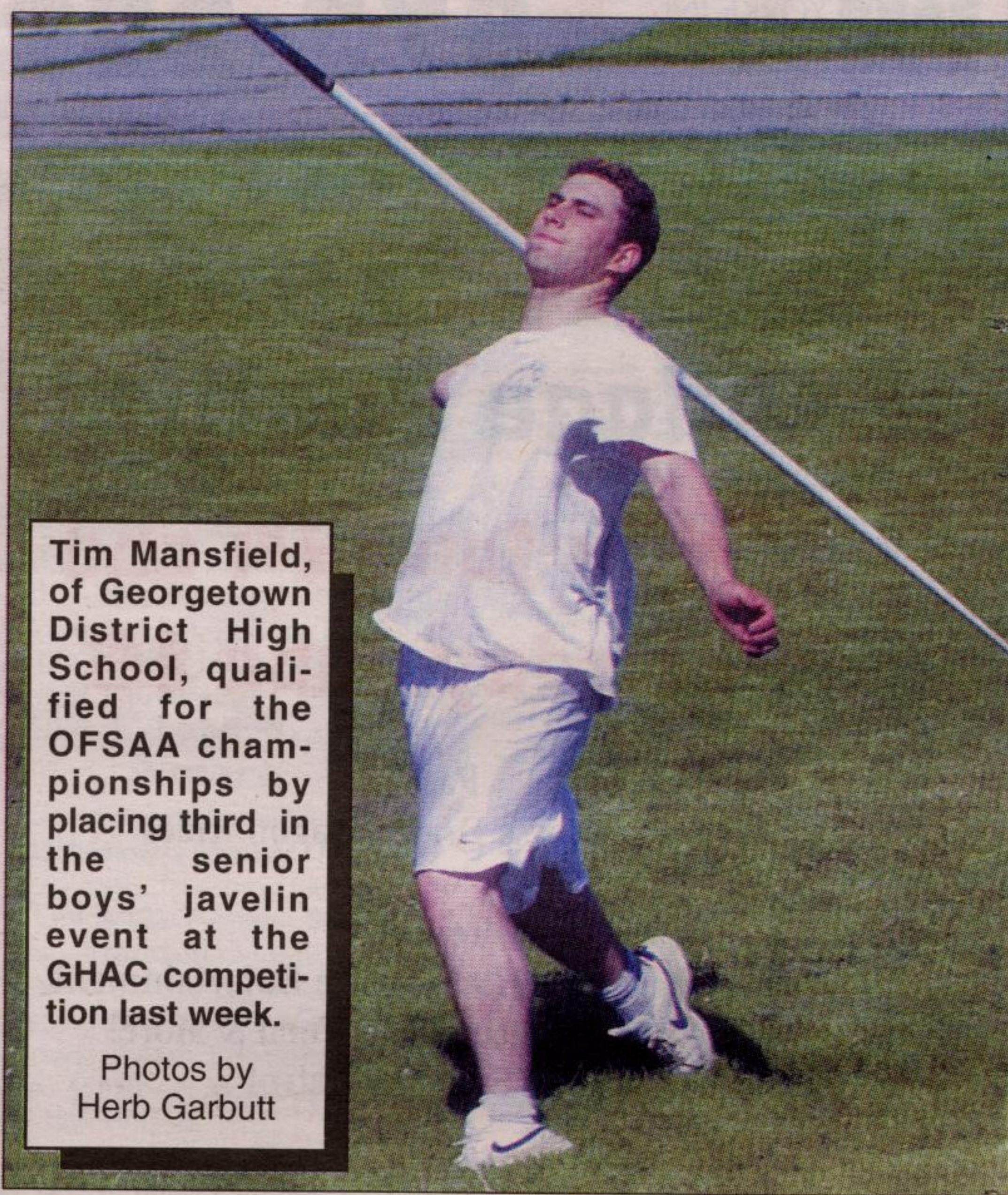
Mansfield, qualifying for his third trip to OFSAA, narrowed the margin between the two to .55m but with humid conditions affecting the distances, both were more than five full metres off their throws from GHAC. The winning throw was 53.80m, followed by Kargel at 51.33m and Mansfield at 50.78m.

They won't be the only javelin throwers at OFSAA. Georgetown's Christine Elliott earned herself a return trip to the provincial meet after placing second at regionals in the junior girls division with a throw of 30.58m.

Elliott figures she will need a throw of 35m to contend for a



Christine Elliott will compete in the junior girls javelin event at OFSAA this weekend.



Tim Mansfield, of Georgetown District High School, qualified for the OFSAA championships by placing third in the senior boys' javelin event at the GHAC competition last week.

Photos by  
Herb Garbutt

medal and with a personal best of 33.84m, she says that is attainable.

"There's always room for improvement and hopefully I can do another personal best."

Acton's Krista Kearns added almost a metre and a half on to her throw in the junior girls discus to qualify for OFSAA. She finished fourth with a throw of 29.71m. Kearns also turned in an eighth-place finish in the javelin.

Georgetown's Rachel McBride's fourth place results in the

senior girls discus ended her five-year quest to make the provincial meet. McBride's throw of 25.15m earned her a spot at OFSAA.

While Troy Ethier didn't qualify, he did manage to break a 12-year-old Acton High School record in the junior boys triple jump, setting the new standard at 11.86m.

—By Steve LeBlanc, special  
and Herb Garbutt,  
staff writer

## Bulldogs' sniper Dube ends 'slump' with back-to-back six-goal games

It was beginning to look like Mike Dube had a bad case of the sophomore jinx.

After an outstanding 38-goal rookie season, Dube has not only struggled with injuries but also to find the scoring touch that helped him score 16 more times than anyone else on the team. Dube's struggles were masked by a quick start that saw the Bulldogs bolt out of the gate with eight straight wins.

Another factor was that Dube's 'slump'—in which he scored 10 goals in eight games—would be considered solid production by most players' standards. But having set a high standard for himself in his first season of Jr. B lacrosse, much more was expected.

Over the past week, Dube has begun to deliver on those expectations. After scoring three times—twice in overtime—in a tie with Akwesasne, Dube had back-to-back six-goal games in the Bulldogs' victories over Milton.

Refusing to blame the injuries that forced him to miss his first game since joining the team, Dube said the rise in production was more mental than physical.

"I played through some injuries but it was more getting my confidence back," he said. "I hadn't been shooting the ball or making great passes. Now it has come back to me."

Fifteen goals in three games will do that. Dube's re-emergence will only make it

tougher to shut down the Bulldogs. Richard Haan and Daryl Veltman had been the game-breakers—doing the bulk of the scoring with a host of others good for a goal or two a game. Now with Dube joining that group, the opposition will have to key on three players.

Milton couldn't do that. Haan had five goals in Thursday's 16-3 win in Milton while Veltman was held to one. Sunday, Veltman potted three while Haan was limited to one in a 15-8 victory at home.

Dube said the convincing wins were a good sign, given that there are few challenges left throughout the regular season.

"The team as a whole trained really hard. Out of the blocks we expected to be one of the top teams but it's a real sur-

prise to be 10-1 (and one tie)," he said. "That shows what we can do. Now we just need to keep the intensity up because when we get the second round of the playoffs against Elora, we're going to need that intensity."

Only four of the Bulldogs' remaining 10 opponents are above the .500 mark and of those only the Spartan Warriors, who the Bulldogs play Saturday, can be considered serious threats for the provincial title.

**DOG BITES:** The Bulldogs play in Guelph Thursday, Spartan Saturday and host Guelph Sunday at 6 p.m. at Alcott Arena... Ryan Oldham had a goal in both Milton games. Jason Ford chipped in with six assists and John Derochie had five.

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