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# Sports & Leisure

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## Senior Rebels take big strides

Over the last four years, the Georgetown Rebels senior boys basketball team made the transformation from winless doormats to contenders for the Halton title.

Now the senior girls squad seems to be following in their footsteps.

Just one season after finishing with a record of 3-5, the Rebels found themselves within one game of advancing to the provincial championship tournament heading into yesterday's (Tuesday's) game in Hamilton. A win would earn them one of two spots allotted for the conference at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) tournament also slated for Hamilton.

Granted, the Rebels were going to be in tough against the province's second-ranked team, St. Thomas Moore, but win or lose, the team has come a long way.

"We lost six girls but the core group that came back have played well above our expectations," said Mark Gray, who coaches the team with Len Untinen.

It didn't take long for the Rebels to raise the bar. In the season opener, they trailed T.A. Blakelock by 12 points at the half and it would have been easy to conclude that the Rebels were in for another long season. Instead, Georgetown rallied in the second half to post a two-point victory. They followed that up with three-point wins over Holy Trinity and Oakville-Trafalgar.

"I think experience and patience were the biggest things," Gray said. "They seem to

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Georgetown's Adrienne Thompson goes in for a layup in last week's 39-34 Rebel victory over Holy Trinity. The Rebels were eliminated from the Halton playoffs but were hoping to advance to OFSAA with a win Tuesday. Photo by Herb Garbutt

## Rebels No. 8 at OFSAA

The Georgetown Rebels have proven capable of overcoming obstacles in capturing their third Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) title in four years.

But the biggest roadblock lies ahead.

The Rebels defeated Hamilton's St. Mary's Catholic Secondary School 25-14, 25-17, 25-14 in Friday's GHAC final. And the fact that the team again overcame adversity to win, bodes well for the Rebels.

The day before the GHAC semifinal, the Rebels lost Scott Cavasin to an ankle injury. Friday, the late arrival of a player left Georgetown with just one sub for the most of the match. But each time, the Rebels made the necessary adjustments to win and make it to this week's Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) volleyball championships.

"I'm pleased that they've been focused," said Rebel coach Jonas Kaciulis. "As long as they're mentally prepared and willing to throw some plays at the other team and show their athleticism, we could surprise some teams."

The Rebels enter the 20-team tournament as the No. 8 seed. That puts them in a pool with the No. 1 seed, Saunders Secondary School from London. Rounding out the pool are Robert F. Hall Catholic Secondary School (Caledon), Marivale High School (Nepean) and Huron Heights Secondary School (Newmarket).

Kaciulis said the Rebels are aiming for a top-two finish in their pool to put them in the championship side of the draw. If not, he said a consolation championship should be within the team's reach.

"I like the way the team is right now, how we've been on a roll since the playoffs started. Each match they've stepped it up a little more. They're learning to put away teams."

The tournament takes place at the J. Clarke Richardson Collegiate/Notre Dame Secondary School campus in Ajax. The Rebels begin play Friday against Merivale at 9 a.m. followed by Robert Hall at noon and Saunders at 3 p.m. They play Huron Heights at 8 a.m. Saturday.

Consolation playoffs begin at 11 a.m. and the championship playoffs start at 12:30 p.m.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

## Raider goalies steal spotlight with back-to-back shutouts

With a team averaging just a shade under seven goals per game, it's not surprising that the goaltenders can sometimes get overshadowed.

But the Georgetown Raiders netminders stole the spotlight this weekend by posting back-to-back shutouts over Burlington and Bramalea.

Aaron Barton only had to make 14 saves Friday in Burlington for his second shutout, but he did have to turn aside two breakaways in the 6-0 win. Though he wasn't thinking about the shutout at the time, given a bit of time for it to sink in, it took on some significance.

"I've never had two shutouts in a

row," said the rookie netminder, who blanked Brampton last week.

Accomplishing that career first at the Jr. A level and lowering his average to 2.34—third best in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League—is why Barton is considered one of the contenders to guard the crease for the Ontario Under-17 team.

Not to be outdone, veteran Matt Harpwood followed that up with a 20-save effort in a 5-0 victory over Bramalea Saturday at Alcott Arena.

"Barts is a great young goalie but I can't have him showing me up," Harpwood said with a big grin.

"It's always good to get the shutout but usually when you get it, it's a team

thing," said the former Mississauga Ice Dog goalie. "The team is playing great in front of us so it's more of a team stat than anything."

The Raiders are now only one of five teams in the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League with a goals against average under 3.00. And since their first loss of the season, they've allowed only one goal in four games.

"We've really been stressing taking care of our own end first," said Raider coach Mike Curren. "If you're not sure, just get the puck out. Keep it simple in our end, clear bodies and clear pucks. We can be creative in the offensive end."

And after struggling on the penalty

kill early in the season the Raiders have found the easiest way to kill penalties is to not take them.

"We've been talking a lot about discipline and keeping the penalties down," Barton said.

That message has obviously sunk in. Georgetown took just two minors in Burlington.

**RAIDER RAP:** Tyler Leggo scored twice against Burlington. Mike Morsillo, Daryl Knowles, Vince Laise and Robert Sgarbossa added singles....Knowles had a pair of goals Saturday and linemates Ryan Del Monte and Vince Laise each had a goal and two assists. Matt Bacon had the other goal.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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