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Wednesday, May 19, 2004

Bulldogs' goalie sharp in 8-4 win over Gaels

While the Halton Hills Bulldogs offence has garnered most of the attention early in the season, goaltender John Edwards is quietly putting together an outstanding season in his third year with the team.

Edwards helped the 'Dogs erase the memory of a 10-8 loss to Barrie—a game in which they held a 5-1 lead—by backstopping them to an 8-4 win over the Green Gaels.

The Gaels were averaging more than 10 goals a game heading into Sunday's Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B game but Edwards held them to just two through the first 55 minutes. By that time, the Bulldogs had a commanding 8-2 lead and even with a pair of late goals by the Gaels, it was still a comfortable 8-4 victory.

"I set a goal this season to keep it to five goals against," Edwards said. "If I do that, we should win. There have only been two games I've got beaten for more than six and that was Akwesasne and Barrie (the Bulldogs' only losses)."

Edwards' 6.33 average ranks second in the East Conference. Only Mimico has allowed fewer goals and the Dogs' will have an opportunity to move their netminder into the No. 1 slot this week.

The Bulldogs face division rivals on back-to-back nights, hosting the Oakville Buzz Thursday at 8 p.m. at the Alcott Arena and traveling to Mimico to face the Mountaineers Friday. The Buzz currently lead the South East Division with 12 points. The 'Dogs and Mimico are just two points back, both with two games in hand.

Saturday's game against the defending Ontario champion Barrie Tornado must have left the 'Dogs feel like the world was spinning around them. Halton Hills opened up a 5-1 lead in the opening period but Barrie cut it to 5-3 with goals 27 seconds apart. Later in the second, Barrie notched two goals within 26 seconds to send the game to the third tied 5-5.

Three times in the final period one team gained an advantage only to have their opponent answer within a minute.

Barrie's Troy Heaselgrave would finally settle things with his goal with 11 minutes to play that made it 9-8. He added an insurance marker with just over five minutes remaining.

"We definitely should have had them," Edwards said. "They came back hitting us and we started to back off. I thought I played well but there were a few goals I should have had and that could have been the difference."

Tyler Phillips had a hat-trick and Matt Lyons scored twice. Sunday, Bland scored three times, extending his goal-scoring streak to seven games. Joe O'Halloran had four points, including a goal and Tim Walinga had a goal and two assists.

DOG BITES: Mike Dube was held without a goal for the first time this season in Sunday's win but did have two assists....Todd Hollinshead left the Bulldogs to play Jr. A in Orillia....Chad Henry is returning from Herkimer County Community College where he helped his team reach the junior college national final, where they lost in overtime.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Tag... you're not out

Georgetown Rebels shortstop J.J. Edwards dives to tag Sarah Kirchner but not in time to get the Nelson runner during Friday's Rebel Softball Tournament at the Georgetown Fairgrounds. The Rebels won 9-5 and went on to beat Bishop Reding 10-2 and tie Waterdown 3-3 to qualify for the consolation final where they lost 9-3 to Mayfield.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Rauwerda grabs silver at Laval meet

His expectations may not have been high but Derek Rauwerda's marks certainly were.

Rauwerda won the all-around silver medal at the Eastern Canadian Gymnastics Championships in Laval, Quebec. The 15-year-old also earned medals in five individual events and helped Ontario win the team championship.

"I was basically just going for fun," said Rauwerda, who won the all-around bronze at the Ontario championships two weeks earlier. "I wasn't expecting to do well because it was a level up from provincials."

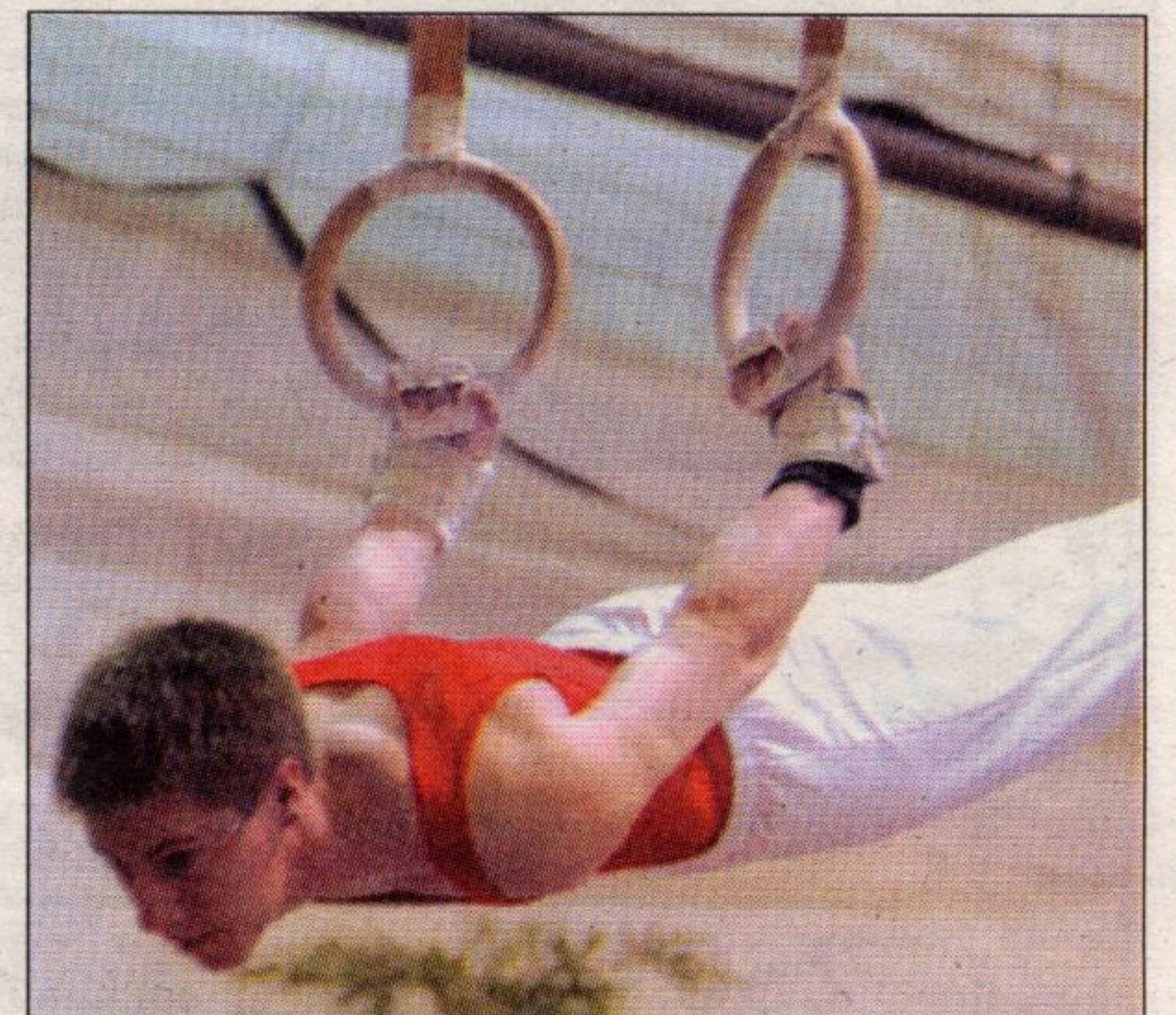
After having an opportunity to watch his opponents through the first few events, Rauwerda began feeling more confident about his chances. He scored a 9.100 on rings, his first event, and finished second in the Level 3 13-and-over division.

He followed that up with a 9.100 and another silver medal on vault and then took gold on the parallel bars with a score of 8.950.

"I had my routines ready," Rauwerda said. "I just had to work on the little things that didn't go as well at provincials."

Rauwerda would add a silver on high bar, scoring 9.350, and a bronze on floor before the competition was over. He trailed only Ontario teammate Trevor Eman in the final tally, 53.800 to 52.650.

Rauwerda's gymnastics career got started at home, where he'd often walk around on his hands. He then enrolled in the Halton Hills



DEREK RAUWERDA

Gymnastics Club's recreational program and when a boys team was formed four years ago, he started competing in interclub competitions. He moved up to provincial-level competitions two years ago.

The Grade 10 student at Acton High School hopes to compete nationally in the future.

"For now I just want to see how far I can go before I finish high school. Next year I'll probably move up to Level 4, which is one level before national and from there see how it goes."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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