

Five locals off to OFSAA

They each ended up with something the other wanted.

Acton's Melissa Bigg and Mike Kosziwka defeated Georgetown's J.J. Edwards and Corey Carlton for the Halton mixed badminton title but the Georgetown pair exacted a measure of revenge, edging their Acton rivals for the final berth in the provincial tournament.

Edwards and Carlton will be joined at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) championships in Newmarket, which got under way yesterday (Thursday), by Rebel teammate Dan Smereka, who qualified in singles play.

Bigg and Kosziwka won four straight matches to claim the Halton

crown, capping their run with a 15-8, 15-7 win over the Georgetown team. Bigg and Kosziwka knocked off the third-ranked Bishop Reding and the top-ranked Lester B. Pearson teams to reach the final.

"We played drop shots a lot and it worked," Bigg said. "We wanted to win that match a lot because we had never beaten them before."

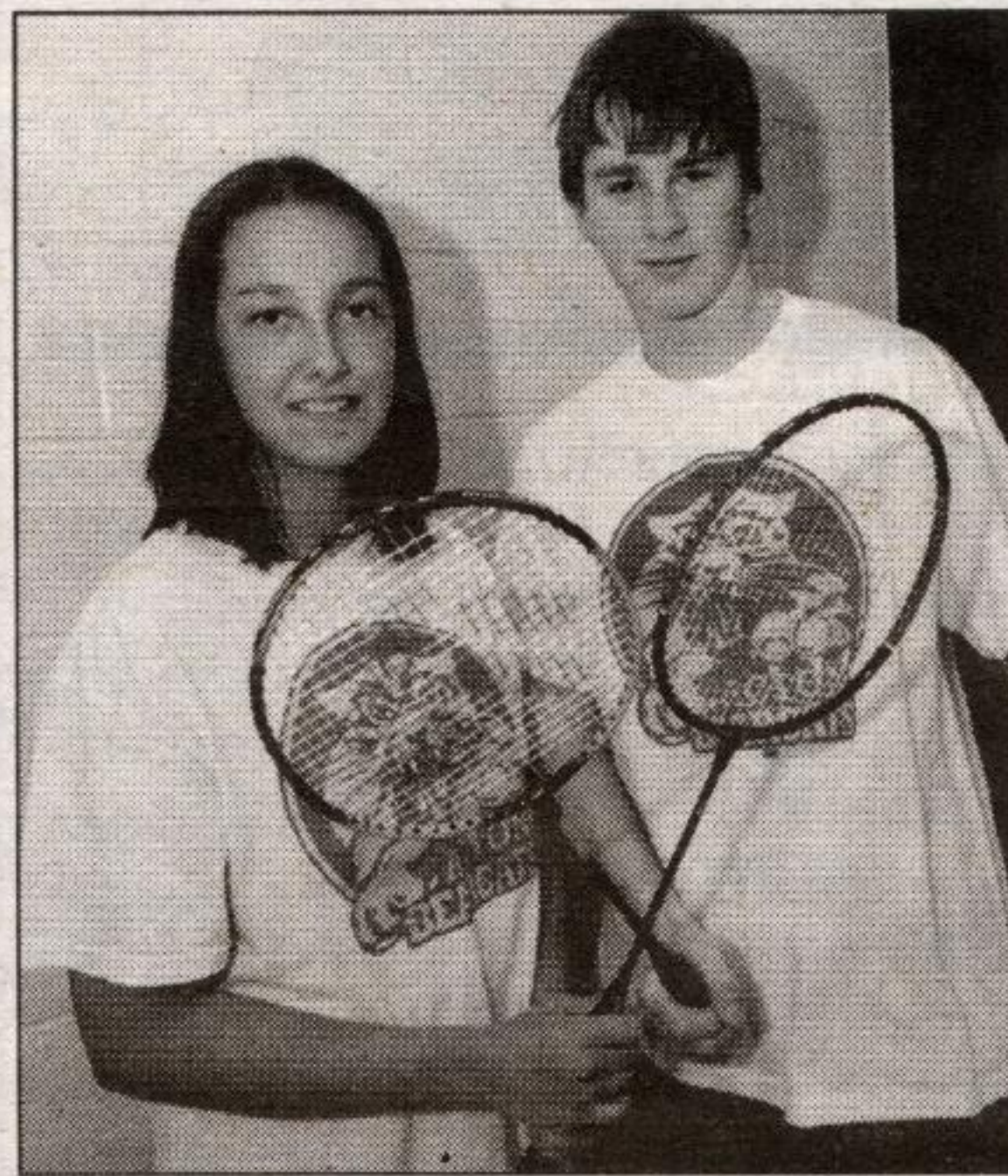
Edwards and Carlton, who settled for third at Haltons, would avenge the loss at the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) championships in Hamilton. They defeated the Acton pair in the semifinals, forcing Bigg and Kosziwka to work their way back through the draw. They made it to set up a match for second place and the final berth at OFSAA.

Edwards and Carlton, having learned from their mistakes at Halton, would prevail again.

"At Haltons we wanted it too much," Carlton said. "We were going for the kill shot every time and they were returning everything or we were hitting the net going for the perfect shot."

Smereka earned his spot at OFSAA with a second-place finish at GHAC. He faced a tough challenge in the semifinals, going up against a player who had beat him 15-5, 15-4 at Haltons. But like his teammates, he reversed his fortunes, scoring a 15-7, 2-15, 15-9 victory.

But fatigue would catch up to



MELISSA BIGG and MIKE KOSWIK

Smereka in the final after a pair of three-game matches that day. After a split of the first two games, Smereka built an early 8-2 lead in the deciding game before he hit the wall.

Smereka's opponent rallied to win the GHAC title with a 15-10 victory but Smereka still earned his first trip to OFSAA.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Bullets sign-up

The Bramalea Bullets Track and Field Club will be holding registration for the coming season at Centennial Middle School on Monday, May 9 at 6:30 p.m.

The Bullets are looking for boys and girls in Grades 2-8 who are interested in competing in sprints, long distance or cross-country running, throwing and jumping.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



DAN SMEREKA, J.J. EDWARDS, and COREY CARLTON

Raiders set to begin quest for RBC

Continued from pg. 19

other team in the tournament. Georgetown won four playoff rounds, also rallying from a 3-1 deficit in the league semifinal, before falling to St. Michael's in six games in the league final. But the Raiders avenged that loss, beating St. Mike's twice in the Dudley Hewitt Cup. In doing so, they were also the only team to go undefeated in regional qualifying, winning four straight games to take the Dudley Hewitt Cup.

The Raiders will be making their first appearance at the nationals.

Portage (55-26-5) is the third team in the tournament to finish first in its

league, topping the Manitoba Jr. A Hockey League. Portage won the national title in 1973 but hasn't been back since.

With the Avanet Cup series tied 2-2, Portage won a triple overtime game on the road in Yorkton and two nights later won again to advance to the Royal Bank Cup.

Like the Raiders, the Hawkesbury Hawks (44-35-3) will be making their first trip to the nationals. The Hawks finished second in their division and fifth overall in the Central Jr. A Hockey League but battled their way to the league title.

After nearly blowing a 3-0 lead in the opening round of the playoffs,

Hawkesbury went on to upset Nepean in seven games in the league final. The Hawks lost their opening game at the Fred Page Cup, but Hawkesbury rallied for four straight wins to advance to the nationals.

Host Weyburn (18-27-10) may not have had its best season but won the national title as host in 1984 and more recently reached the final in 1994, 1997 and 2001.

Weyburn blew a 3-0 series lead in its only playoff series and has been idle since early March.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Wedding Announcement

Linda and Don Truman along with Anita and Ricardo Horton are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their children

KELLY TRUMAN to DENNIS HORTON

Wedding to take place
June 11th, 2005 at
Christian Reformed Church.
Best wishes to you both!

ATHLETES of the Week

CHRIST THE KING	ACTON DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL	GEORGETOWN DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL
Bethany Pender	Amy DeLaFranier	JJ Edwards
Dan O'Driscoll	Dan Kearns	Corey Carlton

Acton High School Athletes of the Week are Amy De La Franier and Dan Kearns.

De La Franier, a goalie on the senior girls soccer tournament, posted a pair of shutouts at an indoor tournament in Guelph as the team prepared for the Halton season.

Kearns earned a bronze medal at the Father Redmond Track Classic in Etobicoke with a toss of 11.34m in the junior boys shot put.

The Georgetown District High School Athletes of the Week are J.J. Edwards and Corey Carlton. Edwards and Carleton teamed up to finish second at the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference badminton championships. That finish earned the duo a trip to this week's OFSAA tournament.

Christ the King High School Athletes of the Week are Bethany Pender and Dan O'Driscoll. Pender, a member of the Jaguars' badminton team was chosen for her strong play in the ladies doubles division at the Halton finals. O'Driscoll, who played in the men's doubles division was chosen for his strong play which advances him to GHAC.

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