

Fire frustrates ECD wrestlers; team fears time off hurts them

• from DRURY on page 1
stands now. We've had offers to use facilities out of town, but is that going to be possible for the younger guys who don't drive?"

Mental toughness affected

Veteran Kevin Heffron said mental toughness is vital to wrestling and that this fire will no doubt take away from the group's focus.

Added teammate Blair Beaulieu, "We're coming up on the hard part of our season and taking even a little time off in this

sport can really hurt you. This is so frustrating."

Other Spartans talked about the team's longstanding tradition of excellence and how the upstairs wrestling room has become like a second home to them.

"I just wonder if whoever did this realizes how much they've messed us up," said Tom Gallinger.

Championship cancelled

As a result of the fire, Drury's Jr. Dynamo wrestling program has been cancelled until further notice. Plans to host the

Halton Championships next month have also been nixed.

Basketball team can't practice

Among others hurt by the fire are the senior boys basketball team, who're currently enjoying one of their most successful seasons but will now be lacking practice time since they'll have to share the one gym with five other squads.

"This wasn't some kind of robbery, but an act of pure vandalism. That's what bugs me the most," fumed senior hoops skipper Kevin Houldcroft.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Halton Regional Police's identification officer Dave Hamer photographs evidence after dusting the E.C. Drury sports building's rear door for prints.

Forensic evidence is sought at scene

• from POLICE on page 1

Also destroyed were basketball nets and championship banners, Captain Cross said.

By the time it's all cleaned up, damage could reach about \$1 million, said Det. Constable Owen Gray, police's north Halton arson investigator.

Known as gym two, the facility is shared by students of E.C. Drury High School and the school for the deaf.

The public high school was closed Friday due to the Thursday night snow storm, but the provincially-run school for the deaf remained open.

Arson to be in Crime Stoppers

Meanwhile, police combed the scene for forensic evidence Friday morning to help identify the culprits.

Police, hoping someone can provide information to aid their investigation, will feature the fire in Crime Stoppers of Halton.

Anyone with information can contact Det. Constable Gray at 878-5511, ext. 2499.

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