

Drury hammers nemesis

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Revenge may be a dish best served cold, but E.C. Drury High School was red-hot when it came time for payback in girls softball.

At Lions Sport Park Tuesday, the Spartans avenged their regular season defeat to Oakville's T.A. Blakelock Tigers in colossal fashion — hammering them 12-2 in quarterfinal playoff action.

The local ladies flexed their scoring muscles in the fourth and sixth innings on the way to a ninth season victory and advancement to Halton Region's final four.

EC's plate pop was to say the least grand, but it was reliever Melissa Park's star that shone brightest.

The diminutive pitcher blanked the visiting Tigers through the last four innings, surrendering just two inconsequential singles — both coming after the game was a dead issue.

She faced five batters and made four putouts herself — the most impressive of which was a line drive snag in the sixth.

Marion Jamieson and Melissa Parcels delivered singles in the fourth that each scored a pair of runs and turned a tie game into a comfortable 6-2 advantage.

From there the Spartans hit around in the sixth, cushioning their lead with a half-dozen runs on as many hits.

Overall the team registered 13 hits.

Providing three of these was Kristen Roberge, who scored twice — as did Marion Jamieson, Anne Jamieson and Nicole May.

Starting pitcher Lindsay Harrold gave up both runs on five hits in a solid — if not spectacular — showing. She received ample assistance in the field, particular from centre fielder Ameer May, who caught three fly balls, including one to end the second inning when Blakelock had the bases loaded.

Drury took a four-game winning streak and 9-2 season record into yesterday afternoon's semifinals against the equally talented Georgetown Rebels.

Results were not available at press time. If victorious, the Spartans will compete for the regional crown Tuesday.

Milton goalie gets a full ride

Campbellville's Jamie Van de Spyker has hit a gusher.

The 18-year-old, formerly with the Burlington Cougars, recently accepted a full-ride scholarship with the Ohio-based Findlay University Oilers, becoming the first local netminder in quite some time to graduate to the NCAA.

"It's a big relief to know where I'll be going this fall," he said.

One of the Jr. A Merchants' most spirited rivals over the past few years, Van de Spyker will now compete in the Buckeye State under the tutelage of Craig Barnett — an ex-goalie himself from the Oakville minor system who once got to start an exhibition game with the NHL's New York Rangers.



Jamie Van de Spyker

"I've seen Jamie play for two years. He has a lot of tools," Barnett remarked.

Van de Spyker figures the Oilers' bench boss was most impressed with his play at last year's Newmarket Showcase Tournament, during which he guided the Cougars to the championship finals and fared well in a 4-3 loss to Milton.

The local cager was also a key factor in Burlington's overall resurgence this past season. Besides Georgetown, they were the most improved team in the West Conference.

Findlay University will be moving up to the Division I Intercollegiate Hockey Alliance this fall after going 23-5 last year at the Division II level.



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