



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY DECEMBER 3, 1999



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

E.C. Drury's Will Van Duyn (left) — a five-year wrestling veteran — stands with promising rookies Alex Brancier, Matt Knock and Jesse Ronan. All four were gold medals in season opening competition.

Another superb start for Drury

Brand new season, same old success.

The E.C. Drury High School wrestling team has picked up right where they left off last spring — dominating the competition.

Larry Jaroslowski's grapplers once again started the year in commanding fashion — capturing two dozen medals, nearly half of which were of the gold variety, during their opening weekend.

Last Friday, Drury claimed the men's open crown at Guelph Centennial. Three individual title wins and seven other top four placings paved the way for overall triumph, as the local squad finished well ahead of runner-up Georgetown.

Brampton Centennial, 1999 OFSAA champs, took third.

Leading the hardware haul for the victors were defending national champions Kevin Heffron and John McCart — who each grabbed gold, as did fellow veteran Nick Barkley.

Sean Burnham and Tom Gallinger each struck silver while bronze medals went to Ryan Faria, Rory McDonell, Will Van Duyn and Andy Wadeson.

Rounding out the top four finishers was Matt Devries.

The Spartans also collected four golds and ended up second overall in the cadet division — thanks largely to golden performances by rookies Alex Brancier and Matt Knock.

Also reaching the top of the podium were sophomores Jason Landry and

Jordan Lumb. Mike Devries and Julian Sericchi came away with bronze while placing fourth were Matt Hamnett, Andrew Kerr and Andrew Patterson.

In Hagersville Saturday, Drury's nine representatives all secured medals.

Van Duyn won three straight matches to record his first open championship while also taking gold was Kevin Moore in the cadet class plus rookies Hamnett and Jesse Ronan in the bantam loop.

Milton Dynamo Gary Ferrier, an affiliate star wrestler who's shone at both the provincial and national level, moved up an age group to take a gold as well.

Mike Devries, Chris Guard and Chris Holmes all grabbed silver. Coming home with a bronze was Matt Devries.

Merchants win another in OT

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Merchants' least experienced player is quickly becoming their most reliable performer in the clutch.

Richard Peverley — one of just two team members, and the only skater, without a full year of Jr. A hockey under his belt — deposited a long range wrister 11 seconds in sudden death to beat Bramalea 4-3 Wednesday.

It was the second time in as many home games with the Blues in which the rookie winger provided overtime heroics — as well as the third occasion in eight days where he came up with the winning tally.

The 17-year-old, whose confidence level must be on the rise with so much crucial ice time lately, has lit the lamp five times in the past four games and now leads the team in game winning markers with four.

His latest goal was doubly significant — since it also gave Milton the win it needed to pull even with Georgetown for top spot in the Provincial Jr. A League's West Conference.

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Peewees persevere

Six straight wins equaled one glorious berth to international competition for Milton's AA minor peewees.

The Co-Steel Recycling Winterhawks combined responsible defense and timely offense to go unbeaten at last weekend's Silver Stick Qualifier.

This advanced them to the big show late next month in Markham.

Milton clinched the regional title in dramatic fashion — edging the Mississauga Terriers 4-3 in double overtime. Providing the heroics in sudden death was Clayton Holman.

Luc Boltuc, Matt Chuchmach and Kevin Parker were the other marksmen.

Although not as nerve-racking, quarterfinal and semifinal play was equally competitive. The 'Hawks reached the final four by doubling Toronto's Ted Reeve 4-2.

From there, they outlasted the Etobicoke Canucks 5-3. Nine different players lit the lamp over this stretch, illustrating the team's great scoring depth.

Earlier in the weekend they reigned supreme over their divisional opponents — beating Rochester (6-1), Belleville (3-1), and the Mississauga Hornets (2-0).

Scott Collard was the team's top producer for the entire tournament with two goals and six assists while close behind with three goals and four helpers was Chuchmach.

Netminders James Connor and Austin Vandenboom combined for a goal-against average of 1.66.

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