



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY DECEMBER 19, 2000

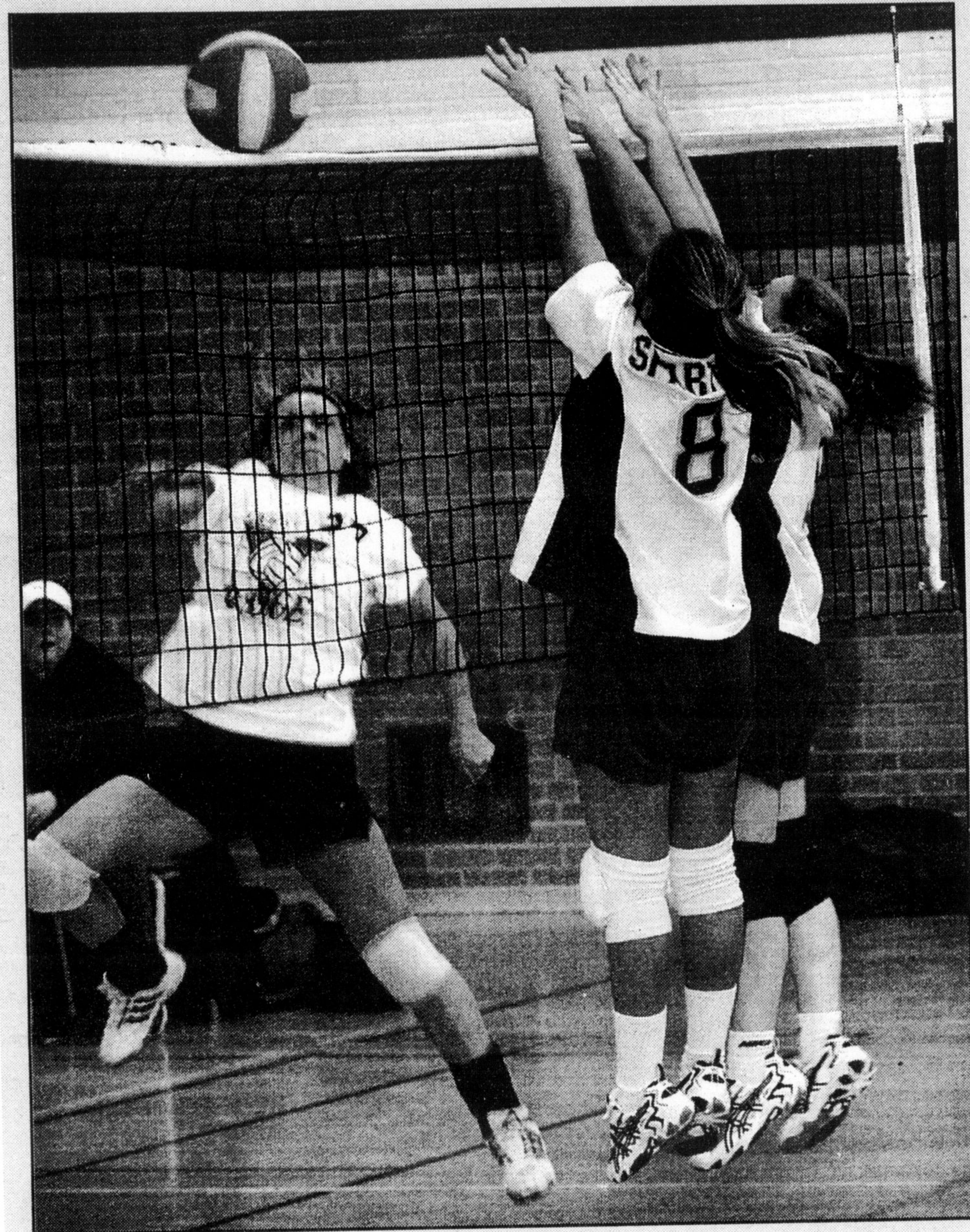


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

E.C. Drury Spartans Marion Jamieson and Heather Arbuckle turn back this Iroquois Ridge striker during senior volleyball play Wednesday. Drury won the match 2-1.

## Drury seniors win at home

E.C. Drury High's senior girls volleyball team has a towering task ahead if it hopes to equal last year's 9-1 regular season.

Wednesday afternoon at home, the local ladies cleared the initial hurdle toward that goal — outdistancing Oakville's Iroquois Ridge 2-1 (25-17, 23-25, 15-5).

The Spartans' tie breaking win, which squared their record at 1-1, was powered by strong serving from Heather Arbuckle and Erin Chaisson as well as timely kills from Anne Jamieson.

Drury collected four unanswered points on two separate occasions en route to victory.

Moments earlier the hosts staged an exciting rally — fueled by three aces from Marion Jamieson — but fell just short of a game two triumph and sweep of the Trailblazers.

Efforts by Katherine Irvine and Michelle Merritt helped force the comeback, but a slow start and substandard back court defense were a little too much to overcome.

The Jamieson sisters stood tall in the game one win with impressive digs and kills.

Their efforts were especially effective during several long rallies — the majority of which went in the hometown team's favour.

## Merchants' winless skid hits five games

By STEVE LeBLANC  
The Champion

The Jr. A Merchants continue to spread holiday cheer throughout the Ontario Provincial League's Western Conference.

Now if only they could save some for their own fans.

As the calendar inches closer to Christmas, Milton is becoming more charitable with division rivals — giving away wins like one of Santa's little helpers.

And Sunday night at Mississauga's Iceland Arena, all that was missing was the gift-wrapping. In their biggest display of generosity this season, the Merchants gave a complete non-effort from the initial puck drop onward and were humbled 6-1 by the Chargers.

This marked the local juniors third loss in a row — something they haven't experienced in several years, since before the Gregg Carrigan/Marty Williamson era. "It's been a while since we played this funky," said general manager Nick Slawson.

Milton's GM went on to cite shaky starts and poor execution as reasons behind the club's recent rut.

### Pitiful performance

Both shortcomings made an appearance at Iceland Sunday. The Merchants fell behind 18 seconds into the game — on a blatant giveaway by captain John Nadalin — and exhibited little focus or intensity the rest of the way.

At one point it looked as though they might get whitewashed for the second time in nine days, but Jason Harshaw — who prevented a shutout against Brampton December 7 — spoiled Charger Mike Corrado's hopes for a goose egg with a lengthy slapshot eight-and-a-half minutes into the third period.

Assisting on the lone marker were Shane Remenda and team scoring leader Andy Rozak, one of many veterans who simply went through the motions Sunday.

Recently returning from York University, Rich Williams — a former Merchant turned Charger — tallied twice for Mississauga. Also potting a pair were Andrew Schembri and Kevin Tracey.

About the only signs of life Milton gave came at the tail end of the night when they engaged their guests in a handful of fights — none of which were of much consequence.

At home Friday, Milton spent an



evening-long game of catch-up against the basement dwelling Oakville Blades. They erased five one-goal deficits

before surrendering an overtime tally and losing 6-5.

Mental miscues and lacklustre defense marred the Merchants' performance — which marked the return of their power-play prowess, with three of their five goals coming with the man-advantage.

### Late surge

Rozak netted his 16th and 17th goals of the season within the final 10 minutes of regulation. Chipping in singles were Dan DeLong, Harshaw and Nadalin — who stunned opposing cager Matt Collaton with a centre-ice blast with just two seconds to go in the opening frame.

Picking up an assist on that goal was new goalie Richard Fournier, who stopped 17 of 19 shots in the first but was less than stellar over the balance of the night.

Marc Pinizzotto delivered the game-winner for Oakville. It was his second of the game. Milton's lost weekend brought their season record to 18-10-4-1 and dropped them to third place in the West.

**Merchant notes:** James Coleman missed Sunday's game after being involved in a car accident on the way to Iceland. He was not seriously hurt ... Debuting with Milton this past weekend was 20-year-old forward Ben Frank, who recently toiled with the University of Toronto ... Milton hosts Bramalea tonight at 8 p.m. and finish a two-game homestand Friday against Hamilton.

## Racing team needs skiers

The Milton Heights Racing Club still has spaces available on its skiing and snowboarding teams.

The organization is looking for racers six to 19 years of age to fill out their ranks. Weekly practices are held at nearby Glen Eden Ski Area while competition is held at resorts throughout southern Ontario.

Those who'd like to sign up, or obtain further information, are asked to call Lin Leeson at 336-5382.

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