



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY DECEMBER 18, 2001

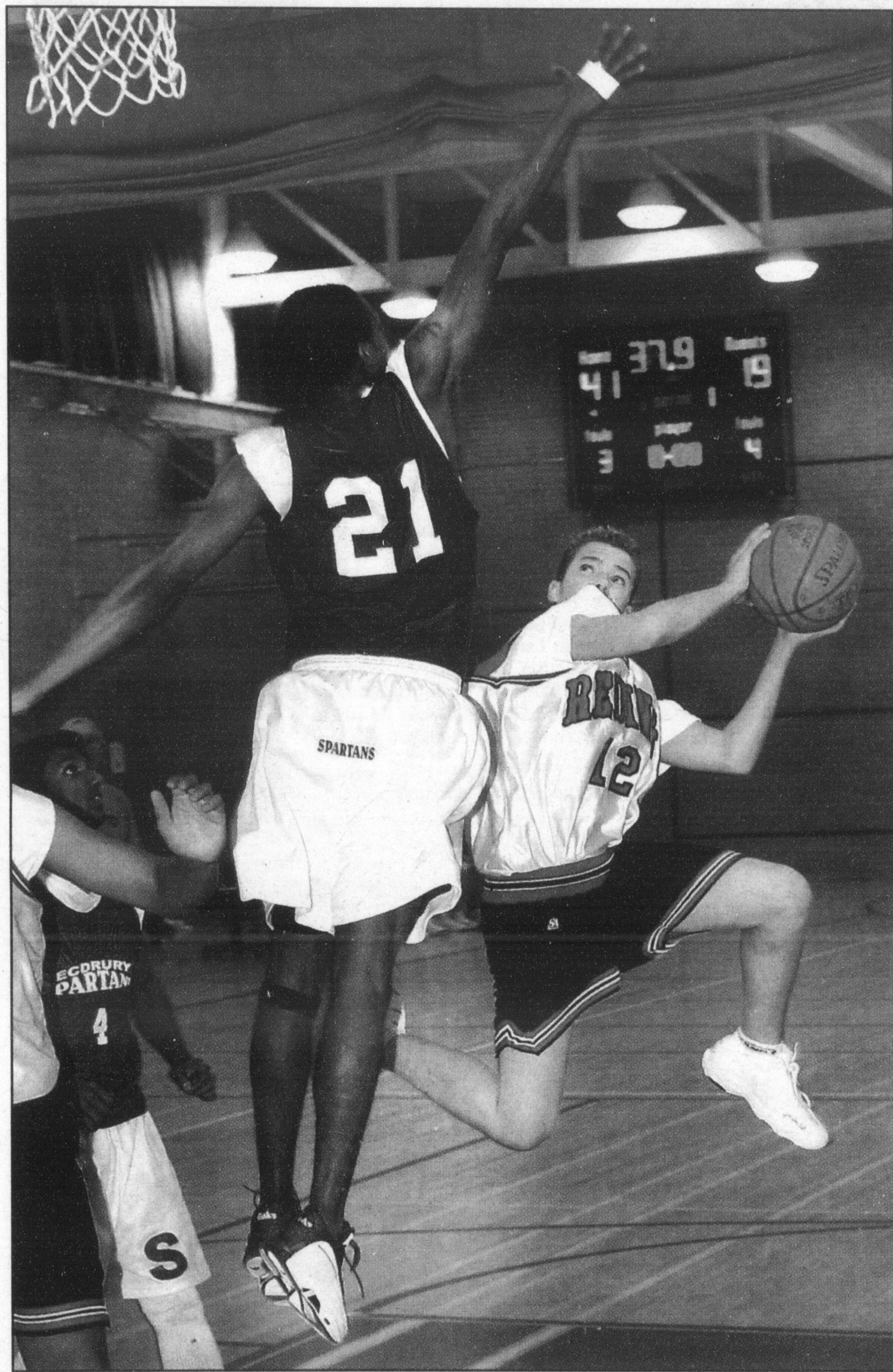


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Air-strike — averted

E.C. Drury's Dwayne Williams (21) successfully blocks Bishop Reding's Zac Ward on this shot during senior boys basketball play at Drury Thursday. The hosts led from the onset and won 58-38 to improve to 1-1 on the season. BR's loss dropped them to 0-2.

Drury cagers falter at own tournament

Juniors 1-for-6 during lacklustre weekend

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Added opportunity doesn't always equal added prosperity.

E.C. Drury's junior boys basketball team learned that the hard way at its own tournament this past weekend.

With a few last-minute dropouts, the local cagers assumed double duty — and thus, doubled their chances for success. Or at least that was the case until competition heated up.

Following a narrow first-round decision over cross-town rival Milton District Friday morning, the hosts were denied victory at every turn — five to be exact — over the balance of the two-day showcase.

Staying within eight points of Burlington's Assumption (52-44) was the closest thing to a win they'd enjoy beyond the opener — as Oakville's White Oaks, Maple's St. Joan of Arc, Brampton's North Park and Port Credit all disposed of them in decisive fashion.

A 30-point margin of defeat was suffered against both North Park and White Oaks — the eventual champs, who clinched the title by knocking off Blessed Trinity 38-20.

Careless passes and shooting were overwhelming obstacles for the hosts, not just at the tournament but during games one and two of league play last week.

"We need to take care of the ball. We've been giving it away like crazy," said first-year junior coach Mike Maynard.

Added assistant skipper Kevin Houldcroft, "I know it's a cliché, but you've got to play the whole 32 minutes (time for high school games)."

Besides beating Milton District 47-44 Friday, Drury's only bright spot of the weekend was some effective outside shooting by Jon Jeysman. He nailed half-a-dozen field goals in round one and delivered four more against both White Oaks and Port Credit.

Jeysman was also the team's top scorer in four of the six games. Josh Yeager's 14 points was tops in the St. Joan of Arc contest while leading with 10 against North Park was Steve Ellison.

Meanwhile, Milton District wasn't any more successful than its local counterparts — with just one win in three tournament games. The Mustangs' lone victory came in a friendship clash with Sault Ste. Marie's CASS Saturday. Rallying from an

eight-point deficit early on, they persevered through a see-saw second half to prevail 37-35.

Kyle Goertz sank the game-winning basket with less than half-a-minute remaining — grabbing his own rebound and draining a short-range jump shot. Tyler Holman made a big steal in the dying moments of play to cement the victory.

"We'd been battling back but unable to finish it until now," said coach Richard Grant Saturday. "We're still coming together. We haven't really gelled yet."

The Spartans nearly shocked the hosts in first-round play, narrowing a 34-18 half-time deficit to just three at the end. Craig Harding's 14-point effort — which included two shots from downtown — fueled the comeback.

Contributing 10 points to the rally was Holman.

After that, the 'Stangs were upstaged by Mississauga's Glen Forest 47-30. Holman and Harding led again with nine and seven-point performances respectively.

Both Milton District and E.C. Drury's junior squads will now look for their first league win of the season when they once again square off against each other as part of a triple-header this afternoon at MD.

The junior hoopsters — both 0-2 — start things off at 3:30 p.m. followed by the seniors and midgets.

Peewees rally to tie

Jeremy Brown scored goals 49 seconds apart in the third period to give his Milton AA major peewees a 2-2 tie with Flamborough Saturday at Memorial Arena.

Assisting on both efforts was Connor Mitchell.

Brendan Duke worked the lion's share of the game after replacing an injured Devin Plater in the opening frame.

Also aiding in the comeback with inspired play were Jacob Demarsh and Brian Evans.

The Hydro One Winterhawks now sit at 10-8-3.



Milton Vs Mississauga
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Friday, December 21st
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(Thompson Rd.)

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