

Spartans fend off humiliation in losing effort to Burlington rivals

Nowhere in high school sports standings is there a column designated for moral victories.

However, E.C. Drury High School's senior boys basketball team might want to start petitioning for one after an impressive second-half performance at Burlington's Lord Elgin Thursday.

The 54-39 final was hardly flattering, but was a whole lot easier to swallow than the potentially ego-bruising blowout that appeared to be in the making for the second-round qualifying tilt for the Ontario AA championships.

Down 30 points around the midway

mark of the afternoon contest, the Spartans fortified their efforts to fend off humiliation.

Graduating point guard Ron Massey made the biggest contribution toward that end, leaving it all on the court in a stellar defensive outing.

"Ron was just all over the court," said coach Kevin Houldcroft. "The first half just killed us. We came out flat and they (Lord Elgin) were flying."

David Thiel and Dwayne Williams also showed strongly in the loss, which followed last Tuesday's 61-46 first-round decision over Milton District.

Thiel's 21-point explosion — a career-high for the returning centre — fueled the victory, as did topnotch play-making by Massey and Williams.

Drury beat their cross-town rivals during regular-season play as well to end a lengthy series of defeats to the Mustangs.

Meanwhile, MD finished fourth in league play and reached last Monday's quarterfinals — where Oakville's Loyola Hawks were waiting to eliminate them by a score of 66-61.

The Mustangs went 5-3 through the regular season while Drury — who suffered through a number of injuries — were 3-5.

Mulé captures another hockey title

Victoria Mulé's hardware haul continues.

The Milton hockey player has captured many championship trophies in recent years, and added one more to the mantle recently with her AA Etobicoke Dolphins.

The bantam girls entered the midget-level ranks at the Stoney Creek Sweetheart Showcase and offered much more than just

a respectable performance — shocking the elder opposition on the way to gold.

Etobicoke clinched the title by blanking the tournament hosts 2-0. Victoria set up the winning goal by delivering a picturesque outlet feed to teammate Brittany Mylko.

The Milton youth finished the weekend with three assists and gave a solid defen-

sive effort along the way — which contributed to a 1-1 first-round tie with Samia and 6-1 semifinal romp of Hamilton.

Victoria's Dolphins currently sit tied for third in the North Metro Girls Hockey League's Tier 1 division with a record of 15-2-2. Etobicoke will look to claim their third tournament title of the season this coming weekend in Aurora.

'AA' atoms' victory party spoiled by pesky Raiders

Yikes, that was close.

Milton's AA major atoms escaped Thursday's Tri County playoff tilt at least partially unscathed — after coughing up a third-goal lead and managing to come away with a 3-3 stalemate against the visiting Georgetown Raiders.

The Wallace Pontiac Buick Winterhawks had their bubble burst in the third period, when the visitors capitalized on defensive miscue after defensive miscue to even the count.

Fortunately, Taylor Prestidge's calm-

ing influence between the pipes and a credible start were enough to balance things out. Brayden Abraham tallied twice for the local atoms while also scoring was Matt Elliott. Scott Stover chipped in a pair of assists.

Five days earlier in Brampton, Milton offered a more complete effort to dispose of the Battalion 5-3.

Wade McGinnis' last-minute empty-netter iced the win while beating the hometown cager were Abraham, Elliott, Ryan Cochrane and Mark Thomson.

Soccer camp at high school

Milton District High School will host a March Break soccer camp for preteen boys and girls.

Open to six to 12-year-olds, the program runs March 11 to 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. daily. The camp costs \$149 per child and includes a shirt, shorts, Spalding soc-

cer ball and a 15 per cent discount coupon good at any SportChek store.

Participants are also eligible to win a pro replica soccer jersey and one of three sets of tickets to a Toronto Raptors or Toronto Rock game. To register, call (905) 315-9532 or (905) 336-1855.

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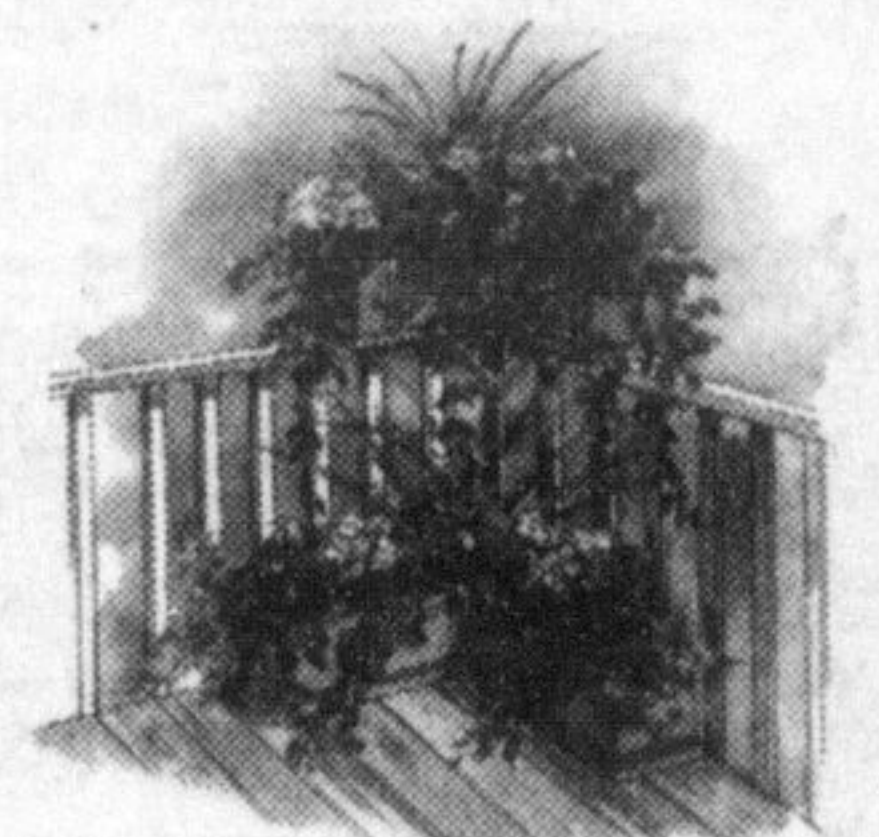
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