

# Spartan wrestlers vying for OFSAA three-peat

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
The Champion

Can E.C. Drury wrestlers continue their dynasty?

Larry Jaroslowski's Spartans headed to Thunder Bay Wednesday morning looking to pull off a coveted three-peat at this weekend's OFSAA championships — something only two other high schools have managed in the modern era.

Though 10 standouts from the two previous provincial championship squads have been lost to graduation, the local contingent has enjoyed perhaps its most consistent season ever — and has to be considered one of the favourites for this year's title.

Drury's 2001/02 resume — leading up to this weekend's showcase — features 240 wins, 52 medals, 35 championship victories and seven tournament title triumphs.

But as always, the provincial championship remains the primary goal.

Here's a rundown of the 10 Spartans that'll be competing in Thunder Bay along with their stats and chances for success.

**Adam Baxter** (61 kg. Record — 31-3, 6 medals, 4 golds) After placing fifth at OFSAA last year, Baxter has the experience and may be Drury's top threat to medal. Adam was third at the recent Ontario Juniors and has been a model of consistency all season.

**Matt Baxter** (64 kg. Record — 24-6, 5 medals, 3 golds) Like brother Adam, Matt was a top-six finisher last year and is also a legitimate medal contender. He's expected to be one of the top seeds in what's traditionally considered one of OFSAA's toughest weight classes.

**Gary Ferrier** (57.5 kg. Record — 26-6, 7 medals, 4 golds) Gary is one of the school's top rookies in recent memory and has made a remarkable transition to the high school ranks. An Ontario cadet champ, he's a dark horse to finish top six.

**Chris Guard** (72 kg. Record — 24-5, 5

medals, 4 golds) In the midst of a career season, the first-time GHAC champ hopes to make his first trip to OFSAA a memorable one. The graduating captain is a legitimate top-six threat, although in an extremely tough division.

**Matt Knock** (57.5 kg. Record — 24-3, 6 medals, 5 golds) A silver medal winner at the juveniles and OFSAA returnee, Matt must be considered a medal contender. His record and experience make him among Drury's most promising grapplers this weekend.

**Jason Landry** (Unlimited Weight Class. Just two tournament appearances, with one gold and one silver) Rejoining the fold for semester two, Jason was a 2000 OFSAA championship squad member. While he may be a little rusty, he's part of a weight class where anything can — and often does — happen.

**Rob Petherick** (61 kg. Record — 26-16, 4 medals) Heading to OFSAA for the fourth straight year, Rob moved up a weight class to solidify Drury's GHAC roster and still managed

to qualify for the provincials. He could be a big surprise this weekend.

**Jesse Ronan** (54 kg. Record — 31-7, 7 medals, 4 golds) Enjoying a banner year, setting several career marks along the way, Jesse has thrived against upper-echelon competition in recent weeks and is considered a top-six threat.

**Tyler Saliba** (77 kg. Record — 23-12, 5 medals, 3 golds) While Bishop Ryan's Sheldon Francis is by far the gold-medal favourite, the field is wide open for silver and bronze — and Tyler, enjoying a banner year, can't be counted out as a contender.

**Adam Smith** (67.5 kg. Record — 27-9, 5 medals, 2 golds) Another surprise OFSAA qualifier, Adam will be making his first OFSAA appearance. He's not considered a medal favourite, but has held his own in open competition and has top-six potential.

*Fellow Spartans Prashant Naikwadi and Ben Sutherland also qualified for OFSAA but will not be competing this weekend.*



## Milton Minor Hockey Association

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Applications available at Memorial and Tonelli Arenas or by calling 878-4769.

Deadline March 15, 2002. Applications to be received at the M.M.H.A. office Memorial Arena

February 27, 2002

Milton Minor Hockey Association would like to express their sincerest appreciation to the below mentioned for their contributions in helping to make the annual Sweetheart Dance a great success.

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Sincerely,  
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## 'A' midgets annihilate Guelph

The A midgets switched gears from drama to dominance in their continuing bid for Tri County gold.

Two nights after squeaking by Elora 4-3, Milton enjoyed an embarrassment of riches against Guelph Tuesday — bombing their traditionally competitive rivals 9-0.

A 46-16 shots on net differential was perhaps the best indication — beside, of course, the score — of how lopsided the mid-week clash truly was.

While fending off boredom as much as the opposition as times, goaltender Nathaniel Murray did have to come up big on a few occasions to preserve his shutout.

Josh Caswell lit the lamp four times while also standing out with a pair of goals and three assists was Tim Anderson. His second marker was of the short-handed variety — one of two scored in such fashion Tuesday.

Andrew McMaster also tallied twice and added a single helper. Wes McDougall capped the hit parade and assisted on two earlier goals.

## Rep Hockey

Peewees' progress continues

The AA minor peewees' pushover status is all but a distant memory these days.

Milton followed up a winless regular season with a miraculous first-round OMHA victory over neighbouring Georgetown. Now, the Lafarge Winterhawks are tasting triumph once again — only now they're doing so in Tri County playoff action.

Their latest serving came at Memorial Arena Sunday afternoon when they disposed of the Orangeville Flyers 5-2. Jeff Thomson led offensively with two goals and two assists while Craig Howse and Mike Hannah each had a goal and an assist.

Daryl Brinke also lit the lamp while chipping in two helpers was Michael Brown.

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