



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY JUNE 11, 2002

## Butcher breaks OFSAA record in 400m



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Bishop Reding's Ian Butcher proudly displays the OFSAA gold medal he captured in Belleville Friday in the midget boys 400-metre. Butcher not only won the event, but set a new OFSAA record — stopping the clock at 49.82 seconds.

### Star runner makes provincial history in last race for Reding

By **STEVE LeBLANC***The Champion*

Ian Butcher refused to become history at Bishop Reding before first making history at OFSAA.

In his final 400-metre performance as a Royal Friday afternoon in Belleville, the 15-year-old runner punctuated a golden season by turning back all midget boys challengers and eclipsing the provincial high school record to boot.

Amidst ideal racing conditions, he upgraded last season's silver medal by exploding over the last 100m to improve on a 10-year benchmark (49.99s) — establishing a new record of 49.82 seconds.

"I'm very happy about this," said Butcher, who'll be transferring to Georgetown's Christ the King in the fall. "I got out to a good start and really kicked it at the end. I pretty much led most of the race."

That last comment basically described his entire grade 10 season when it comes to 400m competition. Building on a Halton/GHAC victory, he absolutely annihilated the South Regional field with a 49.26s effort that made him the number one seed for OFSAA.

While some skeptics might have believed that the second-year midget had peaked one race too early, Butcher was confident he could deliver another sub-50 (second) finish.

"I was pretty sure I could do it again. I

went out harder than I usually do and everything worked out," he said.

Added coach Maureen Morrison, "It was really an outstanding effort. He just took off over the last 100 metres. If it hadn't been his third race of the weekend (following 400m and 4x100m relay heat competition) I really think he could have gone under 49s."

Butcher — one of three provincial track and field champs interviewed by the Toronto Star's David Grossman on The Fan 590 Sunday morning — handily won his preliminary heat Thursday before prevailing in the finals, besting runner-up Chris Taylor of Clarkson by nearly a full second.

BR's departing runner becomes just the second OFSAA champion for the local Catholic school. He joins Rob Wands in that elite group. Butcher also helped the midget boys 4x100m relay team finish seventh with a combined time of 47.02s — improving on a preliminary showing of 47.04s that was good enough for sixth.

In each of Friday's races, the local foursome — which included Darren Izumi, Mike McGill and Mike Rubino — shaded Dunbarton by less than a tenth of a second.

Butcher also ran the 800m to a 21st place Saturday afternoon, stopping the clock in 2:10.37.

Meanwhile in the field Friday, senior Royal Chris Kargel was 11th in the javelin and tied for 12th in the high jump — with 49.01m and 1.85m efforts respectively.

## Drury shows strongly at Ontario tennis finals

E.C. Drury's tennis team served up some impressive results during last week's provincial championships in Newmarket.

Two of the Spartans' three doubles teams reached the semifinals.

Men's partners Josh Caswell and Scott Nemeth scored 8-6 and 8-1 match decisions before bowing out to a Toronto-based duo by an 8-4 margin.

In ladies doubles play, Megan Bauer and Lori Wollaston were eliminated in

the final four by a London team.

Their 8-2 loss followed an 8-7 opening-round tiebreaker plus 8-5 and 8-4 victories to reach the semis.

Meanwhile, Zak Cosby went 0-2 in men's singles play while do likewise among the mixed doubles loop were Leslie Hicks and James Wellstead — who along with Ron Massey fell one point short of reaching the provincial badminton finals earlier this spring.



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