

Sports

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Goodearle gunning for national medal

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

All that's left is the icing on the cake.

That's how Miltonian Kirsty Goodearle saw things heading into national college volleyball play last night. Her Humber Hawks — who're hosting the eight-team showcase, which runs through until tomorrow evening — recently secured provincial gold at Seneca and as of yesterday afternoon were still unbeaten on the year at 17-0.

Needless to say, securing a national medal would be an ideal caper to the 2003/04 Hawks' season.

"It would definitely be a great finish to my college career," said the 22-year-old, a third-year starter and all-star middle with Humber.

Despite their perfect record and host status this week, the Hawks are only seeded fifth. And that ranking — while perhaps surprising to some — is quite justified, given that Quebec and Canada's western provinces have traditionally dominated the national scene.

The Hawks kicked things off against fourth seed Bois de Boulogne of Quebec last night. If victorious, they'll face defending national champion and number one seed Sherbrooke of Quebec this evening in the semifinals.

Likes chances of medaling

While Goodearle admits that Humber will be hard-pressed to strike gold nationally, she said matching the performance delivered against Durham late last month in the Ontario championship will offer a legitimate shot at a medal.

"Our chemistry's really come together over the past couple of weeks and we worked so well in the (provincial) finals," remarked the graduating senior, whose Hawks disposed of Durham in four games for Ontario bragging rights. "Our defense and serving was great. If we can play like that this week, I think we stand a pretty good chance of medaling."

Having ranked second in the league in both blocking and offensive kills this year, Goodearle will no doubt have a huge say in how Humber fares nationally.

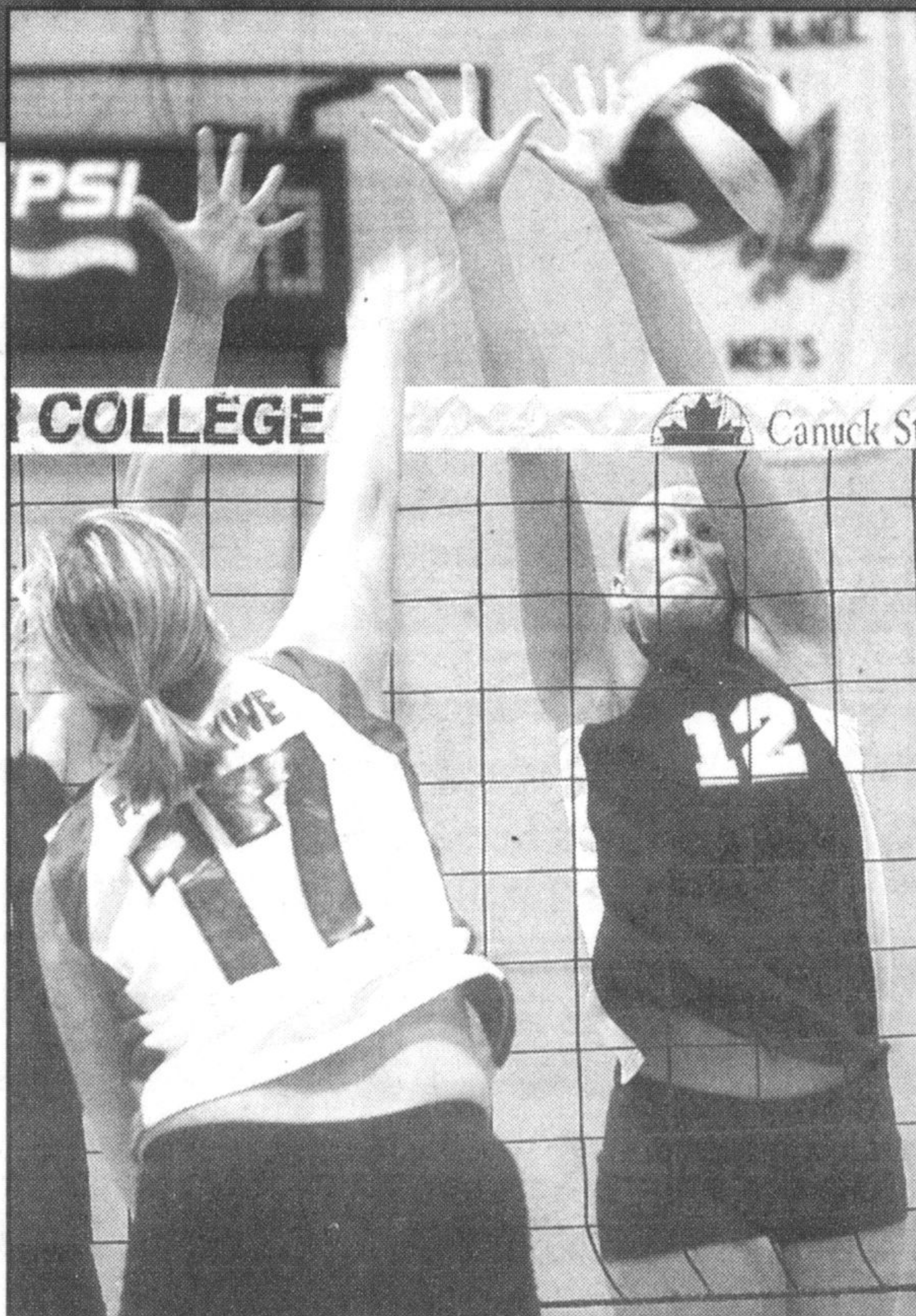
But if the former E.C. Drury Spartan was feeling any additional pressure this week, she sure wasn't letting it show.

"We've had big smiles on our faces and just been so happy to be out on the court recently," she said of her provincial-championship squad. "I think we're ready."



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton's Kirsty Goodearle — seen here in practice and competition — is hoping to secure a national medal this week with the Humber Hawks.



Duo golden at OFSAA

Two Milton high school swimmers sank their provincial competition last week in Etobicoke.

E.C. Drury's Kristin McIlroy and Milton District's Michelle Claessens each tasted OFSAA gold, with McIlroy becoming the first female Spartan in history to do so.

She actually enjoyed a double dose of gold among the senior girls — winning both the 100-metre backstroke and 200m individual medley with times of 1:05.34 and 2:24.50 respectively.

McIlroy's backstroke victory was particularly convincing, as she stopped the clock more than two seconds ahead of her closest challenger.

Part of just a two-swimmer showdown in



Kristin McIlroy

the senior girls 50m freestyle, Claessens prevailed with a 28.09-second effort. She also swam the senior girls 100m breaststroke to fifth-place honours — finishing in 1:18.02.

Rounding out Milton District's medal haul was Aaryn Fraser, who secured bronze in the junior girls 50m freestyle with a time of 28.46s.

Fellow Mustangs Erynn Mayes and Jasmine Davis cracked the top 10 in the senior girls 100m backstroke and junior girls 100m IM.

Meanwhile, Drury's Laura Prusha placed 11th in the junior girls 100m IM and 15th in the junior girls 100m freestyle.

Bishop Reding did not have a swim team this year.



MILTON YOUTH SOCCER CLUB

A few remaining spots are left to be filled for the upcoming season. A final registration will be held this Saturday March 13 from 10am - 2pm at our office located in the Milton Leisure Centre, 1700 Main St. E., Milton. Spots will be filled on a first come first serve basis.





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