

**Bishop Reding's Ryan Blake drives the nose of his opponent, E.C. Drury student Johnny McMahon, into the mat during Friday's Golden Horseshoe wrestling championships in Milton. Drury qualified 10 wrestlers for the upcoming provincial championships in Brampton.**

Photo by  
**BARRIE ERSKINE**

# Mustangs poised for cross-town hoops showdown

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Steve Oliver heads into tomorrow's Halton AA semifinal showdown with what would best be characterized as cautious optimism.

While Friday's 81-47 disposal of Burlington's Aldershot Lions was a solid tune-up for the upcoming clash at Bishop Reding, Milton District's senior basketball coach knows it'll take something a little more to knock off the host Royals — who, along with having home-court advantage, won both regular season encounters with MD.

"We've got to tighten a few things up, like our shot selection and defense of the three-ball. We let too many shots go uncontested today," said Oliver, following the lopsided opening-round victory.

Nevertheless, the Mustangs' skipper was encouraged by much of what he saw Friday — including what continues to be a fairly well-balanced attack.

Added Oliver, "We ran all our defensive sets and executed well overall."

With the exception of a lack of pressure on the Lions' three-point shooters, MD held the edge in every aspect of the AA playoff opener, and clearly dominated both rebounding and transition play.

Jon Jeysman led with 19 points, while also standing out with 14 apiece were Aaron Alston and Ambrish Patel — who each delivered an eight-point quarter before intermission to help squash Aldershot's bid for an upset.

Any lingering hope of that was doused with a 25-13 third quarter.

Andrew McKay, Clayton Holman, Dan Von Cube and Cody Williams rounded out a strong front-line attack that saw the Mustangs hit the 80-point plateau for the first time in league play.

"We did it once before at the Bracebridge tournament but lost, so this was a little nicer," said Oliver.

The winner of tomorrow afternoon's MD-BR game advances to Friday afternoon's AA Halton finals at Sheridan College.

Bishop Reding had a first-round bye and beat the Mustangs 74-61 and 77-69 during the regular season.

## Drury expected to contend again for OFSAA gold

Quality over quantity.

That's the motto for E.C. Drury's wrestling team which, with a slightly smaller contingent this year, will look to secure its sixth straight OFSAA title next week in Brampton.

Although not quite favoured to do so this time around, the Spartans remain a legitimate contender after qualifying 10 grapplers at home during Friday's Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) championships.

While that's three less than last season, when EC claimed an unprecedented fifth consecutive provincial crown, six of those qualifiers are OFSAA returnees — offering genuine hope for either top-six finishes, or perhaps even medals.

On the strength of seven gold medals Friday, Drury upstaged Hamilton's Bishop Ryan 139-102 for its fourth straight GHAC title — prevailing by a slimmer margin than last year due to declining enrollment.

Among EC's gold medalists, Peter Leaman and Gary Ferrier dominated their 72 and 64-kilogram divisions with 4-0 campaigns — with Leaman pinning each of his opponents and Ferrier scoring four technical superiority wins.

Also going undefeated were fellow OFSAA veterans Kevin Iwasa-Madge (51

kg.) and Carl Chan (61 kg.), as well as first-time qualifier Kyle Shermet, who went 3-0 with two pins to reach Ontario high school wrestling's innermost sanctum.

In a move designed to maximize their qualifying chances, the Spartans moved Alan Moffat up a weight class to the 57.5

kg. ranks — allowing Chris Flannigan (54 kg.) a better shot at advancing.

The decision proved fruitful, as Flannigan delivered an incredible victory over Bishop Ryan's Alan Koshiba to take silver and reach OFSAA, while Nick Ronan and Moffat turned in a one-two finish in the higher division —

with Ronan squeaking by 5-4 in the finals.

Steven Adams went uncontested for gold in the 38 kg. ranks, while rounding out the qualifying contingent with silver was 41-kilogram competitor Ranbir Hans.

Mac Fillman, Bryan Morgan and Jared Robb all captured bronze, while Drury's other top-four finishers included Mathew Gonpat, Brandon McDonald, Matt Mantin and J.D. Wallace.

The 2005 OFSAA championships run March 2 to 4, with Lambton CVI, Essex and a few other schools enjoying legitimate medal hopes.

"The battle for the top five spots could be the most wide open race in years," suggested Drury coach Larry Jaroslowski.

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**DRURY COACH LARRY JAROSLAWSKI**

## Corrections

Friday's article on Jennifer Porenta's OUA swimming championship performance failed to mention the results of fellow Miltonian Kristin McLroy.

The U of T freshman was also a multi-winner at the university provincials in St. Catharines — striking gold in both the 50-metre backstroke and as part of the 4x100m freestyle relay team.

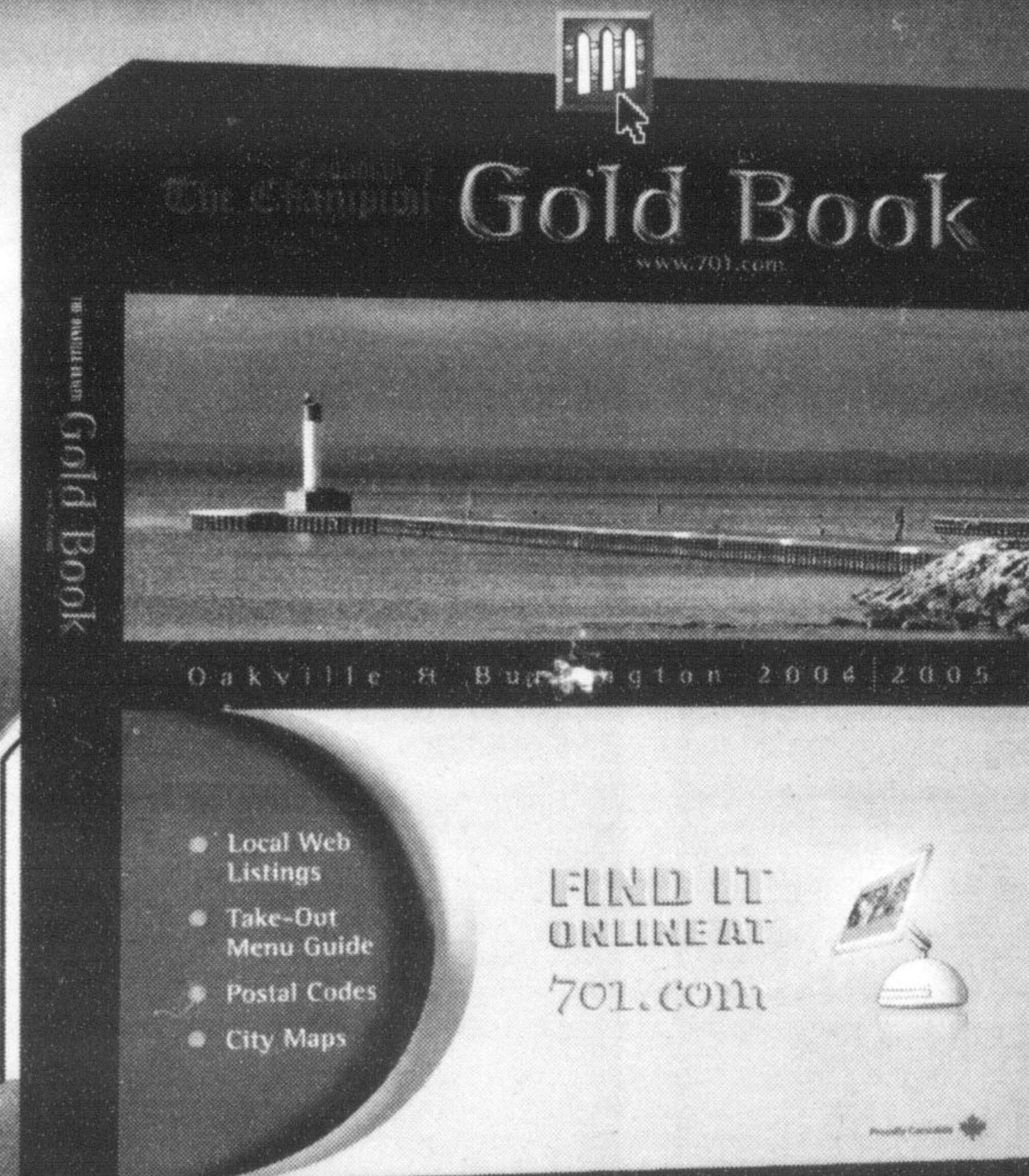
She rounded out the weekend with silver

medal-winning efforts in the 50m freestyle and 200m backstroke. McLroy added a fourth-place showing in the 100m backstroke.

Also in Friday's edition of The Champion, a photo cutline erroneously referred to the Milton Soccer Academy as the Milton Sports Academy.

The Champion regrets the omission and the error.

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