

# Sports

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## 'Hawks and Raiders set to clash... again

By JON KUIPERIJ  
*The Champion*

If timing is indeed everything, the Milton IceHawks have to like their chances in the second round of the Provincial Junior A Hockey League playoffs.

Milton, coming off a five-game series victory over the Burlington Cougars, will now face the Georgetown Raiders in the West Conference semifinal, which begins tomorrow evening in Georgetown.

The top-seeded Raiders easily won their first-round series, disposing of the Mississauga Chargers in four straight, but have been ravaged by injuries and sickness of late.

Georgetown will likely be forced to play the entire series without star netminder John Barrow, who was recently hospitalized for an undisclosed medical condition, and is without three of its top defencemen heading into the opener.

"There's no question about it, they're getting us at a good time," said Raiders coach Dan Cameron, who will miss the first two games of the series himself because of a suspension. "But the guys we do have in the lineup are anxious to show (what they can do). I think the strength of our team has been our depth... we had 15 guys in double-digits in scoring."

Nick Harloff (44 points in 43 games) is the most notable Georgetown blueliner on the shelf, having not played a game since taking a controversial hit from Milton forward Chris Bain in the last weekend of the regular season. Frank DeAngelis, who potted four goals in the opening round, and Ryan Hirtle-St. Denis are also out with injuries.

In goal, the Raiders will turn to Chris Hyk, who they picked up from the Oakville Blades at the trade deadline. Hyk was the Blades' top netminder before Oakville re-acquired Dan Giffin, and played in the league all-star game last month.

"No matter who the goaltender is, we've got to work hard and fight in high-traffic areas to get second and third shots on the net," Milton head coach and general manager George Dupont said. "It boils down to

our performance and not necessarily the goalie."

The IceHawks have some injuries of their own. Key forwards Adam Pileggi and Mike DeMarchi are out with lower-body injuries and it is uncertain whether either player will be able to return during the series.

Milton was victorious in its last regular-season meeting with Georgetown, claiming a 7-4 decision at Memorial Arena Feb. 4.

At the end of that game, Cameron — still infuriated by the hit that injured Harloff — came after Dupont, for which the Raiders coach received a six-game suspension from the Ontario Hockey Association.

"I don't have anything against them or their coach. I was just upset at the time with the hit by Bain," said Cameron. "We did see it on video and it wasn't a clean hit."

"There's no love lost between the two (teams)," he continued.

"This is going to be a physical series, make no bones about it."

Dupont admitted the altercation is still fresh in the minds of his players, but downplayed the suggestion that such animosity might spill over into the series.

"The level of intensity always rises a bit in playoffs but if you let (that) last game influence the series, you're not really prepared. The focus should be on doing what you have to do to win the series, not to avenge any fights," said Dupont.

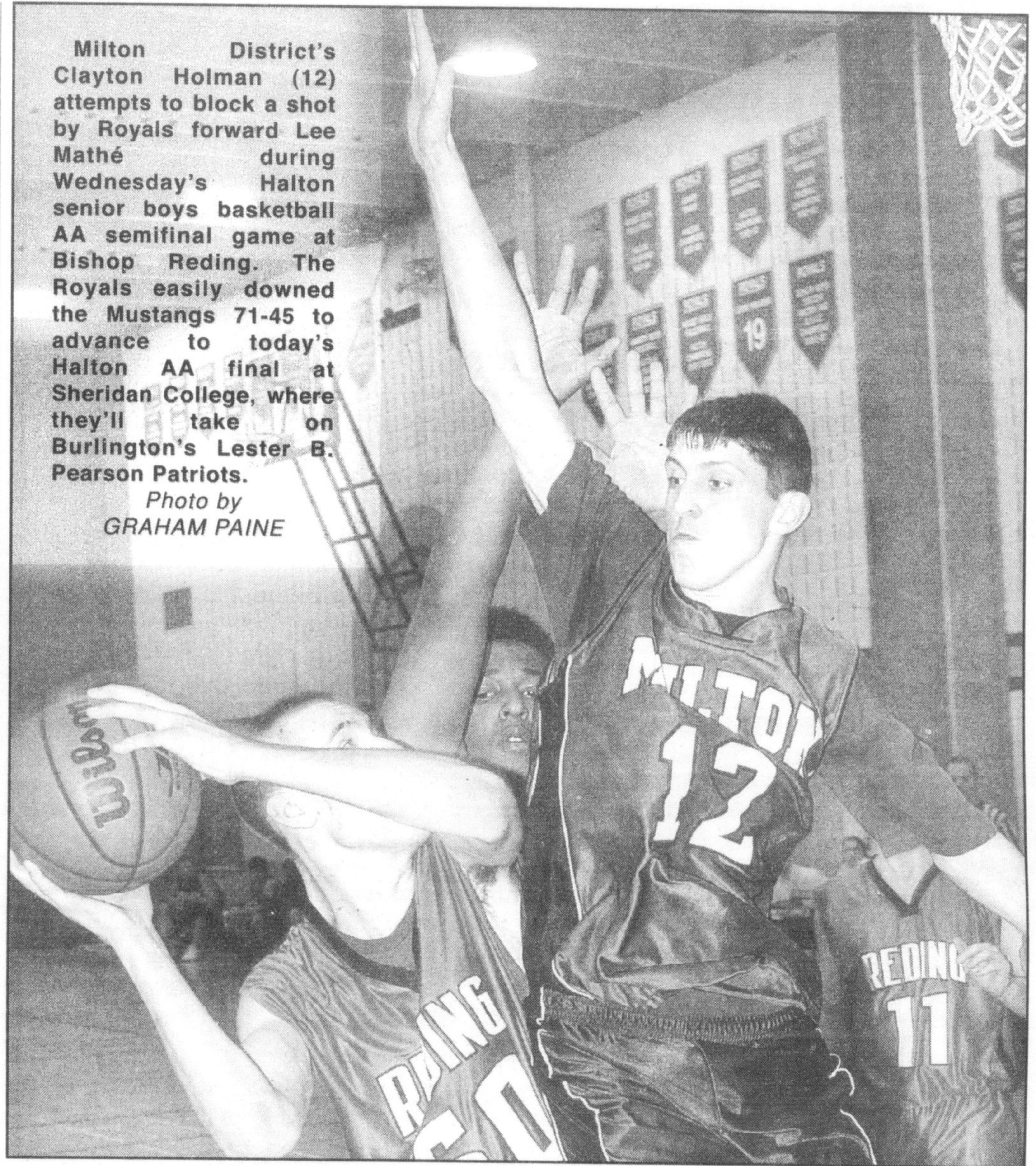
"If we're thinking about a rivalry that might have been created, we're not focused on what we need to be focused on. Yes, there is that added bit of spark, but we're in the second round of the West playoffs against a good hockey club. We have to have that spark anyway, or we're not going to get through."

Game 1 is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. at Georgetown's Gordon Alcott Arena, with the series' second game slated for 3 p.m. Sunday at Memorial Arena.

The Raiders won three of the five meetings between the teams this season and have eliminated Milton from the playoffs the past two years, including a four-game sweep in 2004.

Milton District's Clayton Holman (12) attempts to block a shot by Royals forward Lee Mathé during Wednesday's Halton senior boys basketball AA semifinal game at Bishop Reding. The Royals easily downed the Mustangs 71-45 to advance to today's Halton AA final at Sheridan College, where they'll take on Burlington's Lester B. Pearson Patriots.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



## Reding through to Halton final

Mark Freeman admits he's a bit worried about the Bishop Reding Royals' opponent in today's Halton senior boys basketball AA championship game, Burlington's Lester B. Pearson Patriots.

But if the Royals play the way they did in Wednesday's semifinal against the Milton District Mustangs, Reding's co-coach will have little reason for concern.

The Royals were thoroughly impressive on both ends of the floor, exploding for 41 points in the game's opening 12 minutes and holding MD to three second-quarter points, as they easily downed the Mustangs 71-45. The victory advanced Reding to the regional AA championship, scheduled for 4:30 p.m. today at Sheridan College in Oakville.

"We played really well. (The Mustangs) prepare well for us and I guess it fell apart for them, but we're scared of them all the time," said Royals forward Lee Mathé, who led Reding with 19 points. "They're a good team and we feel fortunate to get ahead like that

early." MD had little answer for the height and athleticism of Reding's Al Alilovic, who scored 13 first-quarter points and finished the game with 15. Sean Mathé added 10 and Marcos Gray contributed five for the Royals.

"We're not an offensive juggernaut by any stretch of the imagination," laughed Freeman, who oversees the squad along with Dwight Jonker. "God was smiling on us. (Shots) were falling for everyone."

Mustangs coach Steve Oliver was disappointed with his team's shot selection and defence, but credited Reding for a solid effort.

"They executed well and we couldn't stop them. It came down to that," he said. "They were smooth, they were disciplined and they'll give Pearson a good run."

Jon Jeysman, double-teamed most of the game by Reding, scored 19 points in the loss. Ambrish Patel netted 10 and Matt Sandford scored seven for the Mustangs.



## Milton Minor Baseball Association

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