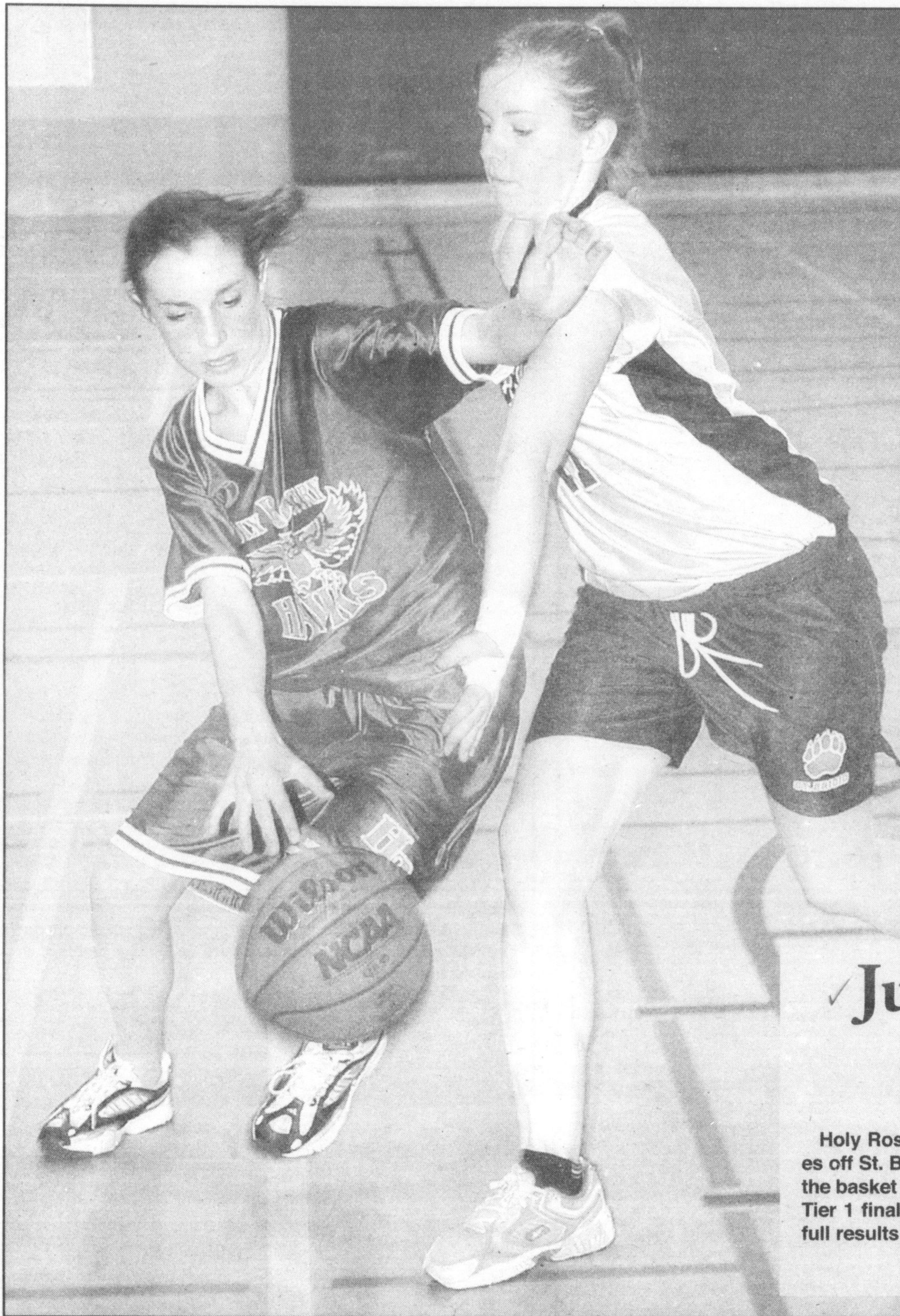


# Sports

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## Ronan captures Canadian bronze

### Rallies from loss to secure medal

Nick Ronan saved his best for last, and the results were good enough to bronze.

Shaking off any ill-effects from a second-round defeat at the recent national championships in St. John's, Newfoundland, E.C. Drury's 10th grade cadet wrestler delivered his biggest stretch of the season — amassing six straight victories to take third-place honours in the 58-kilogram division.

"It felt awesome. I took the long way to reach the podium, but I still got it done," said the 16-year-old.

In giving the Spartans their first Canadian medal since Gary Ferrier struck gold in 2003, Ronan enjoyed a hefty measure of revenge — with pay-back wins in both the bronze semis and finals.

First he avenged his early loss to Edmonton's Michael Crooks with a 2-0, 4-2 sweep, and then with bronze on the line pinned Clayton Acheton of Mariposa, who had defeated him in the provincial semis in February.

"I got beat in the first round, but just sucked it up and used an over-under throw to pin him midway through the second," recalled Ronan of the battle for third. "I was more confident and focused as the meet went on."



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Nick Ronan shows off his national bronze medal.

The Canadian medalist scored three dominating decisions over opponents from Newfoundland, British Columbia and Ontario and then blanked the provincial champion from Mariposa 2-0, 6-0 en route to his pay-back wins.

Much like he did last month at OFSAA, fellow cadet Kevin Iwasa-Madge fell just short of claiming bronze as well — losing two rounds to one (6-0, 1-6, 2-6).

His other defeat was by decision in round two to the eventual 50 kg. champ. Overall, Iwasa-Madge was 4-2 — ending an outstanding 2004/05 campaign that saw him lead all juniors with 44 wins and 11 medals.

Rounding out Drury's Canadian contingent were juvenile grapplers Kyle Shermet and Peter Leaman.

Losing to the first and fourth-place finishers, Shermet had to settle for a top-12 showing with a 3-2 record. Leaman couldn't seem to mount much offense out east and won just one of his three matches.

However, both earned distinction this season by cracking the 50-win plateau. Leaman was 55-11 with a team-leading 13 medals, while Shermet went 51-14.

## Just passin' through

Holy Rosary Hawks' Cailey Robertson pushes off St. Brigid's Nicole Abernethy en route to the basket in Thursday's North Halton Catholic Tier 1 finals, which the Hawks won 18-13. For full results and related photos, see page 25.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

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