

Sports

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In the thick of things

At left, minor midget Hurricane Brad Hoy gets taken hard into the boards by a Welland opponent in Saturday afternoon play at Memorial Arena. Above, Hoy battles for position in front of the net. The Hurricanes eked out a 2-1 victory, thanks to solid goaltending from Ryan Williams and a two-point game from Scott Stover. Sporting seven Milton-area players this year, the Hurricanes continue to sit atop the SCTA at 12-2-2 and head to the much-anticipated Silver Stick Tournament this weekend in Whitby.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Drury senior cagers advance to Halton final

E.C. upstages Reding to reach championship

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

E.C. Drury's senior girls basketball team has rediscovered its winning ways — and not a moment too soon.

Reclassified to Halton's AA playdowns after an 0-8 regular season in a tough East Division, the Spartans pulled off back-to-back wins last week against their cross-town rivals to reach today's regional championships.

While sporting just one starter from last year's OFSAA contingent, E.C. put itself in the Halton finals with Thursday's 37-31 decision over the host Bishop Reding Royals — who went 7-1 in the North loop and no doubt had hopes of fol-

lowing that up with a trip to Sheridan College.

However, the Spartans showed a little more composure and assertiveness in the paint to take a first-quarter lead and maintain it for the duration of the semifinal clash.

"I think the experience from last year boosted our veterans and lifted the rest of the team," said head coach Kevin Houldcroft, whose cagers knocked off Milton District 41-32 in the AA quarterfinals last Tuesday.

In for all 32 minutes Thursday, Sarah Fredricks — the lone returning starter from last season — led Drury with 14 points. Meanwhile, power forward Ashley Rutz — back on the court after taking a year off to concentrate on

lacrosse and hockey — delivered a spirited two-way effort and helped keep Reding's offense in check.

"Having Ashley back this year is huge," said Houldcroft. "She's not necessarily a basketball player, but she's incredibly athletic."

Brooke Harper contributed 10 points to the Spartans' winning cause, while Michelle Parcels made three baskets, including one in the final minute that essentially sealed the deal.

With top gunners Caitlin O'Connor and Lindsey Furik effectively shadowed and held to a combined 11 points, Reding just couldn't turn the tide after falling behind early on — despite scoring the only two three-pointers of the afternoon and enjoying three breakaway lay-up baskets from Carissa Henry.





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