

SPORTS

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Sr. Royals advance to Halton 'AA' final

Upstage Milton District to reach championship

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Bishop Reding's senior boys basketball team has already secured one title this month, and now has a shot at another.

With momentum from their consolation championship victory at the All-Catholic Classic just five days earlier, the Royals booked passage to tomorrow's Halton AA final with a 67-56 decision over Milton District Friday afternoon at BR.

The semifinal win capped a three-game sweep of the Mustangs this season and was arguably the most emotionally-charged encounter between the cross-town rivals in recent memory.

"We played well at the tournament and that carried over into today," said Lee Mathé, who contributed 14 points to the win and was one of four host players to hit double digits. "Our rebounding and foul shooting were the difference."

While not quite as protective of the ball as co-coach Dwight Jonker may have liked, the Royals held the edge in just about every aspect of play and were particularly impressive with regard to defensive rebounding.

Marcas Gray, Lance Codner and Sean Mathé established an effective half-court press, while overall Reding went 17-for-24 at the line.

Al Alilovic led with 15 points, while Codner and Sean Mathé added 13 and 11 respectively.

MD drew within half-a-dozen points on four different occasions down the stretch — thanks to some big playmaking by Cody Williams and key three-pointers by Jon Jeysman and Dan Von

Cube — but just wasn't assertive enough in the paint to close the gap.

The Royals now have a mountain of challenge awaiting them at Oakville's Sheridan College tomorrow afternoon, when they take on the Lester B. Pearson Patriots — who went 9-1 in a much tougher West Division this season and beat BR 57-49 in last year's AA final. Tomorrow's game starts at 2:45 p.m.

In other semifinal action Friday, BR's senior girls volleyball team lost two-games-to-none to St. Thomas Aquinas.

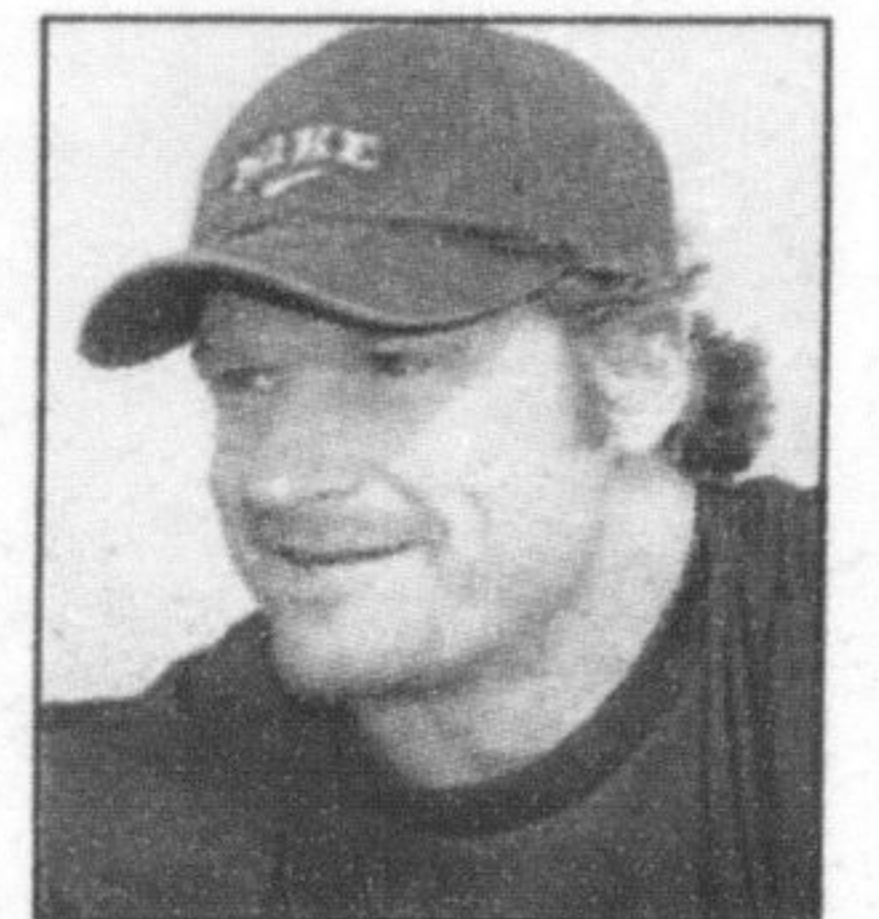
Meanwhile, E.C. Drury's senior and junior volleyball teams both made it to the semis as well. The juniors lost 2-1 to Assumption — which was especially heartbreaking since they won the opening game — and the seniors were beaten in two close sets by Pearson.

O'Shea re-signs with Argonauts

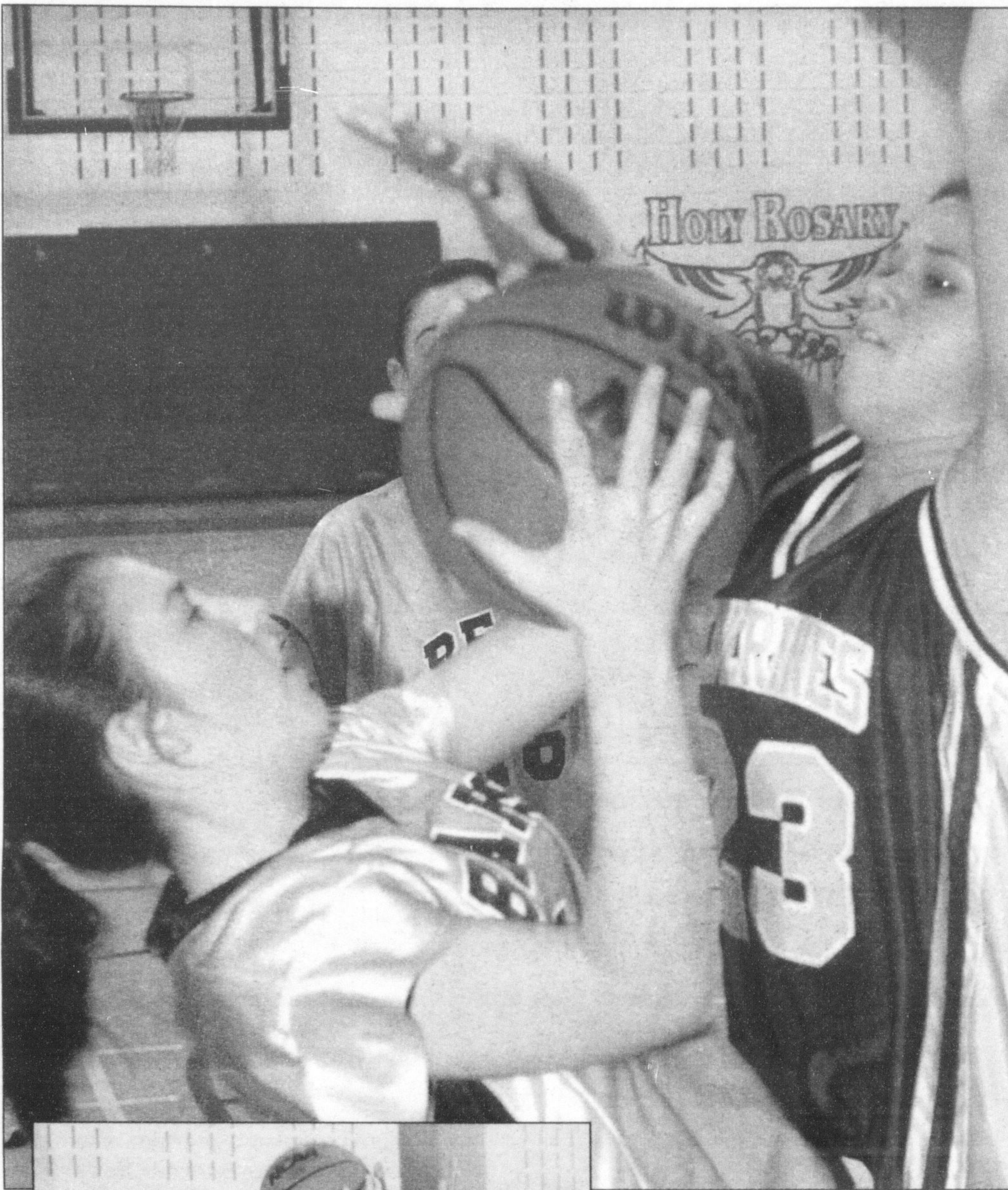
Mike O'Shea spent less than a day on the free-agent market before learning he'll spend at least one more season with the Double Blue.

On Thursday, Milton's CFL veteran agreed to terms with the Toronto Argonauts — with whom he's played nine of his 13 years in the league — for one year plus an option for a second.

"For sure it's the ideal situation," said the 35-year-old linebacker, who's won three Grey Cups with the Argos. "It allows me to stay in Milton and work with both a great group of guys and a superb coaching staff. It also gives us the chance to pick up where we left off and try to avenge last year's East Conference championship loss."



Mike O'Shea



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

HOLDING COURT: Our Lady of Victory's Cheyanne Gray (above) tries to block a shot by an opponent from St. Brigid's of Georgetown during Saturday's elementary girls basketball tournament at Holy Rosary. At left, Holy Rosary's Vanessa Hartwick looks for a shot amidst a sea of hands in play against cross-town rival St. Peter's. The host girls beat St. Peter's 26-0 and went on to take top honours at the tournament, punctuating their title run with a convincing 24-4 win over St. Brigid's. Holy Rosary's boys won their own tournament Friday evening, also beating St. Brigid's by a much more dramatic 15-12.

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