

# SPORTS

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**HOT ON HIS HEELS:** Winterhawk 'AA' peewee Nick Cragg pursues a Wheatfield Blades opponent during the first of a two-game exhibition series at Milton Sports Centre Saturday. The visiting Buffalo-area team upstaged Milton 3-1 and 4-3. Kevin Thompson scored in each game, while Bryden Curran and James Hart also lit the lamp in the second contest.

## Oh so close!

### Gooding and Golden Hawks edged in CIS national finals

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Nicole Gooding came so close to winning another national women's hockey title that she could practically taste it.

But in the end, the 20-year-old Miltonian had to choke down a bitter pill of defeat at Antigonish, Nova Scotia's St. Francis Xavier University Sunday evening — when her Laurier Golden Hawks were eclipsed 2-1 by the Alberta Pandas in the CIS championship.



Nicole Gooding

The finals marked sweet revenge for the Pandas, who were upset by Laurier in last year's national finals after securing three straight Canadian titles and amassing a 110-game unbeaten streak.

Three-time OUA champs, the Golden Hawks headed into this year's nationals as the number one seed and reached the finals with a 4-2 first-round decision over Dalhousie and 4-1 semifinal victory over McGill.

Their Canadian championship run looked poised for completion when Laurier's Laurissa Kenworthy struck on the powerplay at 12:50 of the opening frame. However, Alberta would even things up shortly before intermission on a beautifully-executed rush and went ahead midway through the second period with the extra attacker.

"It would have been nice to have a few more shots, but overall I thought we played a pretty decent game," said Gooding, a third-year defensive centre with the Golden Hawks. "Alberta's just a classy team and we knew it was going to be a real battle. Hopefully we can take this as a learning experience and come back strong next year."

## Fillman leads Drury wrestlers at Ontario Winter Games



Bobby Fillman

Bobby Fillman continues to lay the groundwork for what promises to be a highly-decorated high school wrestling career.

Fresh off his bronze-medal performance at OFSAA, E.C. Drury's star rookie struck gold at last weekend's Ontario Winter Games in Collingwood.

He wrestled up a weight class and still managed to turn back his competition — going 3-0 with two pin-fall wins for top honours in the 46-kilogram division.

Heading to Edmonton next month for the nationals, Fillman has now won a dozen medals as a freshman. His Ontario Winter Games gold included a semifinal decision over fellow Spartan Ranhir Hans — who went on to secure bronze and finished 3-1 overall.

Equaling that effort among the 76-kg. competitors was Jared Robb — whose bid for gold was nixed with a narrow loss in the semis — while in the 54-kg. class Duncan Moffat went 4-2 with two pins to place fourth.

Sixth-place finishes were delivered by Greg Brooks, J.D. Davies and Blair Norland. Brooks and Davies both went 3-3, while Norland was 2-3, with two close losses. Kian Kerrmann and Troy Medland rounded out EC's Ontario Winter Games contingent.

The Spartans placed sixth out of 29 teams, a more than credible feat since many of the top squads were from clubs that draw wrestlers from more than one school.

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