

V-ball clinic on

Calling all volleyball players. Joining forces next month, the St. Mary's Volleyball Program (MVP) and Mountain Athletic Club (MAC) will be offering a house-league instruction program for girls and boys in grades 5 to 8.

The 10-week clinic begins January 7 and runs Sunday mornings at St. Mary's Secondary School in Hamilton. The cost per participant is \$125, which includes a t-shirt and volleyball.

To register or for more information, call St. Mary's at (905) 528-0214, ext. 465 or Lesley Swanson at (905) 315-8817.

Sr. Royals edged in battle for first

Dalton Olinoski will no doubt get some extra attention the next time he competes in town. And it's certainly not the type he'll welcome.

The senior cager — a long-time Milton Madd Dawg, who helped the juveniles claim OBA Tier 2 gold last spring — pulled double duty as both the star and hero in a battle for first place at Georgetown District High School Wednesday afternoon.

He scored 30 points overall and hit two threes in the final minute to give his host Rebels a 49-46 decision over the Bishop Reding Royals — who include some of his club ball teammates.

BR led twice in the last 1:22 and about a half-a-dozen times overall in a seesaw showdown of two previously unbeaten teams — who'll square off again in regular season-ending play at Reding February 7.

"Overall, I thought we played quite strong," said coach Mark Freeman, who's led the Royals to Halton 'AA' championship play the last two years. "I was very pleased with our guys. We'll have to make some adjustments over the break, but that was to be expected. Georgetown's a great team and we look forward to seeing them again in our gym in the new year."

Nearly matching his Madd Dawg counter-

part's output Wednesday, Al Alilovic — a provincial team veteran — amassed 27 points and nine rebounds. Aaron Alston chipped in seven points, while Joey Melo had six points and five assists while delivering some credible defence. Doing likewise were Stephan Gray, Lee Mathé and Lance Codner.

BR grabbed the board off a missed foul shot in the dying seconds of play, but just couldn't get off the field goal attempt that would have forced overtime.

The heartbreaking loss followed five straight decisive victories — all by at least 22 points.

The Royals are back in action January 8, when they host last-place E.C. Drury.



Team Canada hopeful versatile

• from RUTZ on page A19

gym, so I'm hoping that's all going to pay off."

A well-rounded athlete — who some feel is just as capable in hockey — the E.C. Drury graduate is fighting for a place on the national team's defensive line. But if recent years have proven anything, it's that she's extremely versatile and can make a major impact at both ends of the field.

"Just because I play line defence most of the time doesn't mean I don't know how to put the ball in the net when given the chance," said Rutz.

"I'm one of the most aggressive players out there and can play anywhere on the field if needed. In league play I'm a forward and one of the top scorers when called upon to play that role. Whatever they need, I know I can deliver."

The highly gifted local player has more to look forward to in 2007 than just the final announcement for Team Canada.

Upon returning from the Australian tour, she'll promptly head off to St. Timothy's prep school in Baltimore, Maryland. She'll spend the coming semester there before next fall's start at Philadelphia's St. Joseph's University, where she's earned an athletic scholarship and will be studying to become an elementary school teacher.

But for right now, Rutz is focused on one thing only — cementing her place on the national team and punching her ticket to Peterborough.

And while the pressure of that is awfully high, so too will be expectations come World Cup play in August, with the host Canadians having come away with bronze last time around and being looked upon to at least medal once again.

"The pressure is on to up it to silver, but of course we want the gold," said Milton's Team Canada hopeful.



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