

# OFSAA gold a long time in coming for Iwasa-Madge

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This time around, Iwasa-Madge left no doubt. He had only lost once this year heading into OFSAA and continued to dominate in his first three matches to reach the semis, where he defeated Newtonbrook's Cruz Manning 8-1, 4-1.

The finals against St. Catharines' Nathan Lunn would prove to be his first real test. After a scoreless first round, they went to overtime. Although Lunn got the advantage on the coin toss it was Iwasa-Madge who scored first on a reversal, though a quick scoring counter by Lunn left some doubt as to who scored first. "I was probably a little too cautious in the first round," Iwasa-Madge said. "I knew he was a counter wrestler and he'd try to shut me down."

## Springers show strongly

The Milton Springers capped their provincial qualifying campaign in fine fashion recently, with some impressive efforts at the third and final meet in Brampton.

With golden girl Heather Sadler sidelined with a sore heel, it was Celena Morgan's turn to lead the way for the local gymnastics club — claiming overall top spot in the Level 6, 10-year-old division. She finished first on bars and earned the Judges' Award for Most Dynamic Vault, en route to securing silver in that event. Fourth-place performances on both beam and floor rounded out her all-around victory.

Also joining Morgan and Sadler at next month's provincial championships will be Lindsay Bright and Brittany Schrader.

Booking passage to the Ontario showcase in the Level 6, 11-year-old ranks, Bright took home the Best Swing Award for her silver-medal effort on bars. She'd add a pair of bronzes — on floor and vault — and an eighth on beam.

Having already earned a berth to provincials, Schrader took part in the final simply for experience — and made her presence felt in the Level 7, 12-and-13-year-old division.

Her best efforts were reserved for bars — on which she turned back all challengers for gold — while her vault and beam routines were good enough for fourth and sixth respectively.

He wouldn't make that mistake in the second round, winning 4-0 to capture his long-awaited medal.

"I've been waiting two years," he said. "This time I knew I could do it."

Still, there would be some tense moments for Iwasa-Madge, as a video review by officials was needed to confirm the first-round victory. When he finally got word that the gold was his, it took some time to sink in.

"When they told me I had won, I was kind of shocked. I didn't know whether to believe it or not."

Perhaps hard to believe was the margin by which Drury missed another OFSAA team title. Smiths Falls edged Drury 129-128. "We can't be too disappointed because we wrestled beyond our expectations," Jaroslowski said.

Drury's performance was bolstered by six finalists. Duncan Moffat (54 kg), Bobby Fillman (47.5 kg) and Nick Ronan (64 kg) finished fifth, while Mac Fillman (61 kg) was sixth.

A bronze-medalist last year, Bobby Fillman was seeded second, but was hurt by a first-round bye. That gave him a tough opponent in North Park's Shane Mudford, who would finish fourth, for his first match. The Grade 10 student lost a three-round match in overtime and battled his way back into medal contention with four straight victories. But he again met Mudford, who won to advance to the bronze medal match.

Jaroslowski said Mac Fillman, wrestling up one division, and Nick Ronan both came through with some late come-from-behind victories and both turned in their best tournaments of the year. Duncan Moffat, a grade 10 student, reached the final in a class that was dominated by senior wrestlers.

Jared Robb went 3-2 in the 77 kg division while Chris Flanigan was 2-2 in the 64 kg. Michael McLelland (47.5 kg) won one match before being eliminated by teammate Bobby Fillman.

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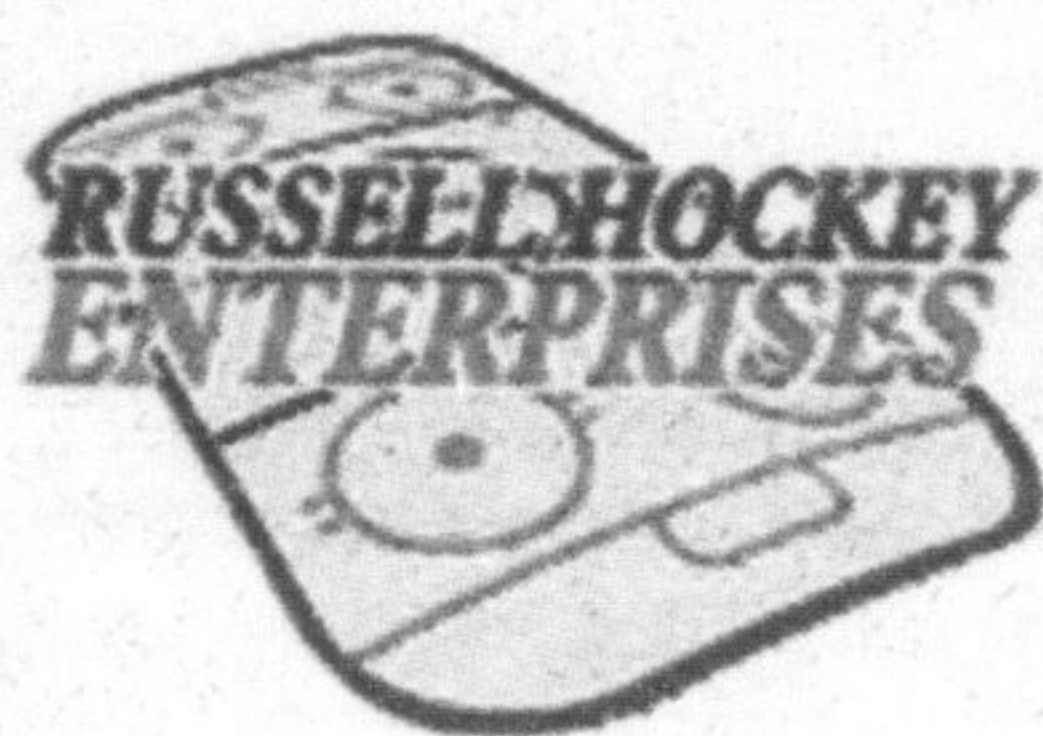
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