

Drury qualifies nine for OFSAA wrestling

Tie host Bishop Ryan for top spot at GHAC

E.C. Drury's powerhouse wrestling team delivered another golden performance at the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) championships Thursday in Hamilton.

Only this time they had to share the glow of victory.

Finishing in a dead-heat with host Bishop Ryan atop the team standings — with 121 points apiece — the Spartans won five titles and qualified nine for OFSAA next week in Caledonia.

That's just one less than last year, when they fell a measly one point shy of a championship repeat.

Leading the way with their third GHAC titles were Bobby Fillman and Kevin Iwasa-Madge.

Dominating the 51kg division, Fillman went 4-0 with two pins to reign supreme. He now has 15 medals this season, the third highest total in team history.

The defending OFSAA champ, Iwasa-Madge's triumph gave him 13 golds for the year and boosted his career win count to 257 — tying him with Chris Price for the all-time Drury lead. He and co-captain Mac Fillman — both in their final GHAC appearance — cruised through to the 61kg finals, where Iwasa-Madge scored the decision over his longtime scrimmage partner.

The silver medal gives Fillman his fourth trip to OFSAA — with the top-two finishers advancing — while Iwasa-Madge will be making his fifth straight trip to Ontario high school wrestling's innermost sanctum.

Three other Spartans captured their first-ever GHAC titles.

Among them was red-hot Jared Robb, who's struck gold at his last three meets — including the recent juvenile provincials. He gave a standout performance in the 77kg class, with two pins highlighting a 4-0 day.

Also coming into his own, Ranhir Hans went 4-0 as well to reach the top of the podium among 47.5kg grapplers, while 57.5kg competitor Duncan Moffat battled back from a first-round overtime loss for a narrow decision against host rival Fadis Georges in one of the meet's most anticipated finals.

Rounding out Drury's OFSAA qualifying contingent with silver-medal efforts were Blair Norland (84kg) and rookies Chris Varas-Hedman (95kg) and Jeff Sinclair, who went an outstanding 3-1 in the always tough 67.5kg division.

Five-year veteran Nick Ronan fell just short of reaching OFSAA with a third-place finish — dropping two close matches to Hamilton wrestlers — while also claiming bronze was Michael McLellan.

Drury will now vye for its 11th straight OFSAA team medal.

BR ekes out quarterfinal win

Jr. v-ballers rally to edge favoured Loyola Hawks

Talk about coming through under fire.

Teetering on the brink of elimination in Oakville Thursday afternoon — with just one more slip pushing them over the edge in a do-or-die quarterfinal tiebreaker — Bishop Reding's junior girls volleyball team reeled off five unanswered points to eclipse the favoured Loyola Hawks 16-14.

Composing herself after a few nerve-induced moments earlier on, lone ninth grade starter Lauren Furik delivered a couple of huge serves at crunch time, while the entire front-line attack fortified its efforts to book passage to the semis.

"I'm so excited for them. I have asked a lot of them this season and they've always been willing

to give it — and more," said jubilant coach Jodie Rideout. "They've been so focused all year and never given up. This group of young ladies has so much heart."

Some big kills and impressive coverage by Jelaina Whitney and another exceptional all-around effort by Devan O'Connor — the stand-out of first-round play — highlighted Reding's quarterfinal triumph.

Loyola forced a tiebreaker with a 25-20 second set after the Royals took game one 25-23 — mounting an early lead and hanging to put themselves in position for the upset.

BR will now need to play giant killer in order to reach Thursday's Halton championship at Sheridan College, with the unbeaten powerhouse Assumption Crusaders of Burlington standing in their way this afternoon.

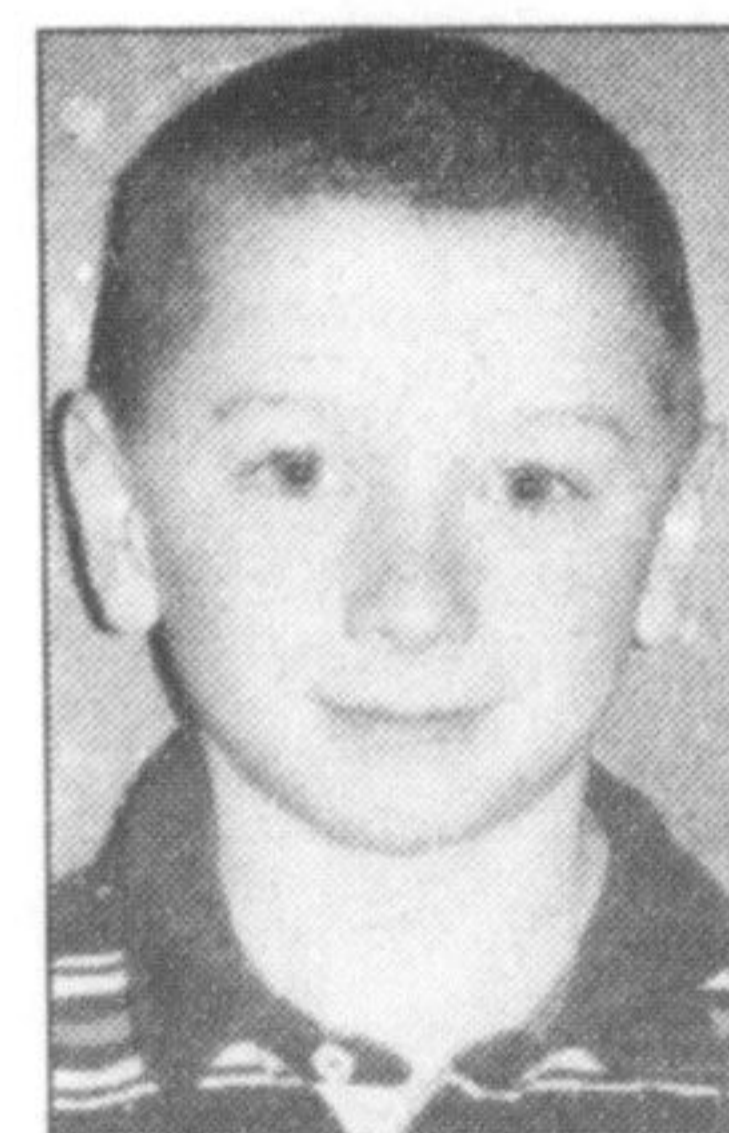
Young gymnast qualifies for provincials

Jonathan Scripnick has punched his ticket to the provincial championships.

Milton's eight-year-old gymnast — a member of Mississauga's Futures Club — booked passage to Ontario Level 1 men's artistic showcase with an all-around second-place performance at the second of three qualifying meets recently in Windsor.

Upgrading the overall fourth he secured in Ottawa in December, Jonathan took top honours on rings and struck silver on both the floor and parallel bars to grab the number two spot.

Enjoying an impressive transition from his strong pre-competitive days, the young gymnast has one more qualifying meet to go — though it



Jonathan Scripnick

isn't necessary for advancement — early next month in East York before his provincial debut April 4 to 6 in Mississauga.

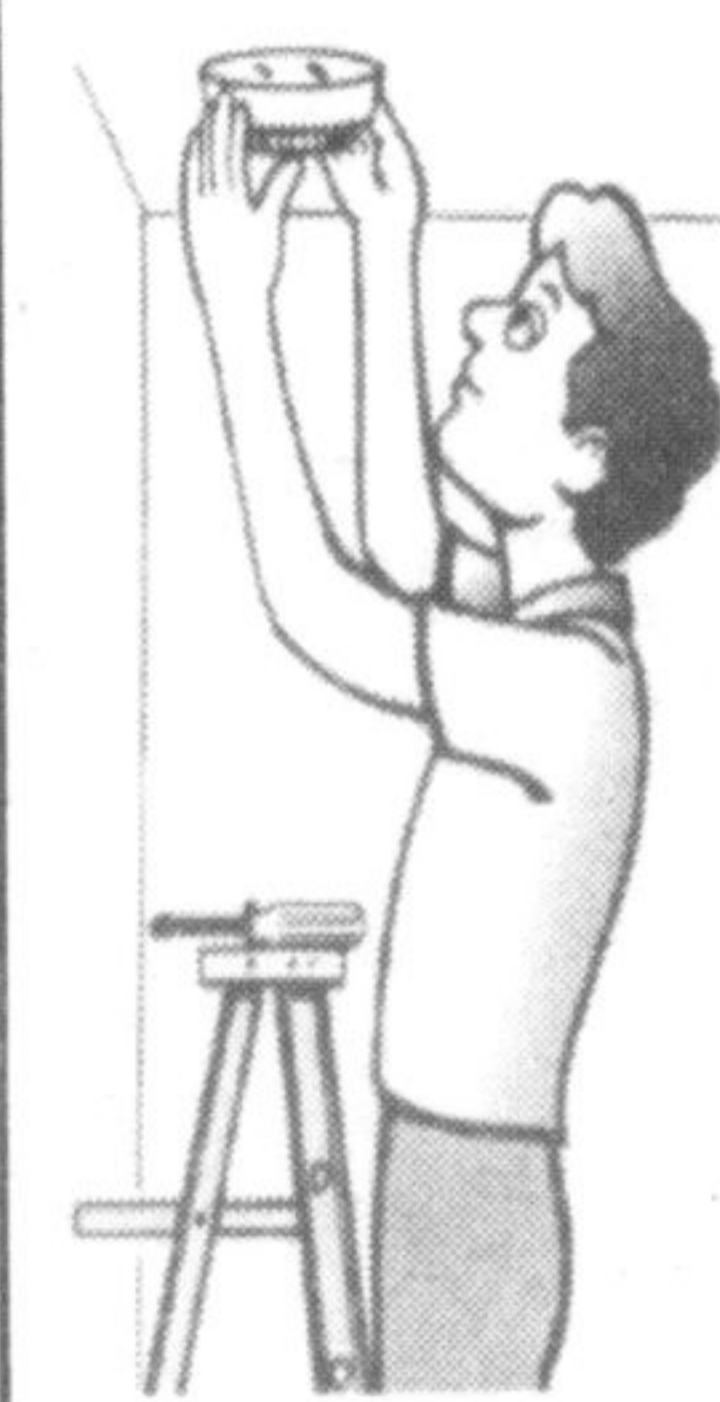
Meanwhile, Futures club-mate and fellow Miltonian Keanu Nunes is back in the championship hunt after an injury sidelined him for the initial qualifier.

The 12-year-old Level 4 gymnast matched Jonathan's second-place finish in Windsor, thanks to individual wins on rings, vault and parallel bars. He'll need another top-six finish at East York to qualify for the Ontario championships.

Keanu has medaled at provincials the last three years — with two golds and a silver — and prevailed at last spring's eastern nationals in St. John's, New Brunswick.

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