

# Local cagers book passage to Halton Catholic's final 4

## St. Peter's boys and Holy Rosary's girls net quarterfinal victories

A pair of Milton Catholic elementary schools headed into this week with hopes of adding to their basketball hardware still very much intact.

The Holy Rosary Hawks girls and St. Peter's Panthers boys

both reached Halton's final four with successful qualifying efforts late last week at Bishop Reding.

Four-time north Halton champs, Holy Rosary reached the regional semifinals for the second time in three years with an unbeaten run Thursday — which was highlighted with a 28-15 quarterfinal triumph over Burlington's St. Timothy's.

Slowing things down after a tight first quarter, the Hawks eventually took over and got double-digit production from co-captain Rose Șerafini and fellow sparkplug Marie Maranan — who combined for about three-quarters of the scoring.

"The girls didn't panic (when things were close early on) and started to run some plays after we mixed things up," said head coach Cin Johnston. "Our defence was really strong as well and overall we raised our game a level."

All 15 Hawks saw floor time in the quarterfinals, including seventh grade twins Amy and Corrine Lintack, who

delivered big two-way efforts to help upstage St. Timothy's.

Holy Rosary's lady cagers were hoping history repeated itself yesterday evening, when they took on Burlington's St. Gabriel's in the semifinals.

The Hawks had downed them 16-11 in Thursday's opening round, although Johnston figured a stronger overall performance would likely be needed to come out on top in the rematch.

"They'll be focused on Rose, so we'll need to find other ways of scoring."

Making their first trip to the regional semis in nearly a decade, St. Peter's enjoyed a measure of payback in Friday's quarterfinals — avenging a three-point loss to Oakville's St. Vincent in early-season tournament play with a 48-38 victory.

This marked their most offensively-potent showing of the playoffs.

"We drove to the net well instead of relying on outside shots, and our rebounding was strong," said head coach Jordan Spence, a member of the Guelph Gryphons' 2003 national silver medalists.

Luke Brandreth and Connor Prince came up big under the boards, while co-captains Mikey Borlongan and Josh Berza highlighted their days' efforts with 17 and 16 points respectively.

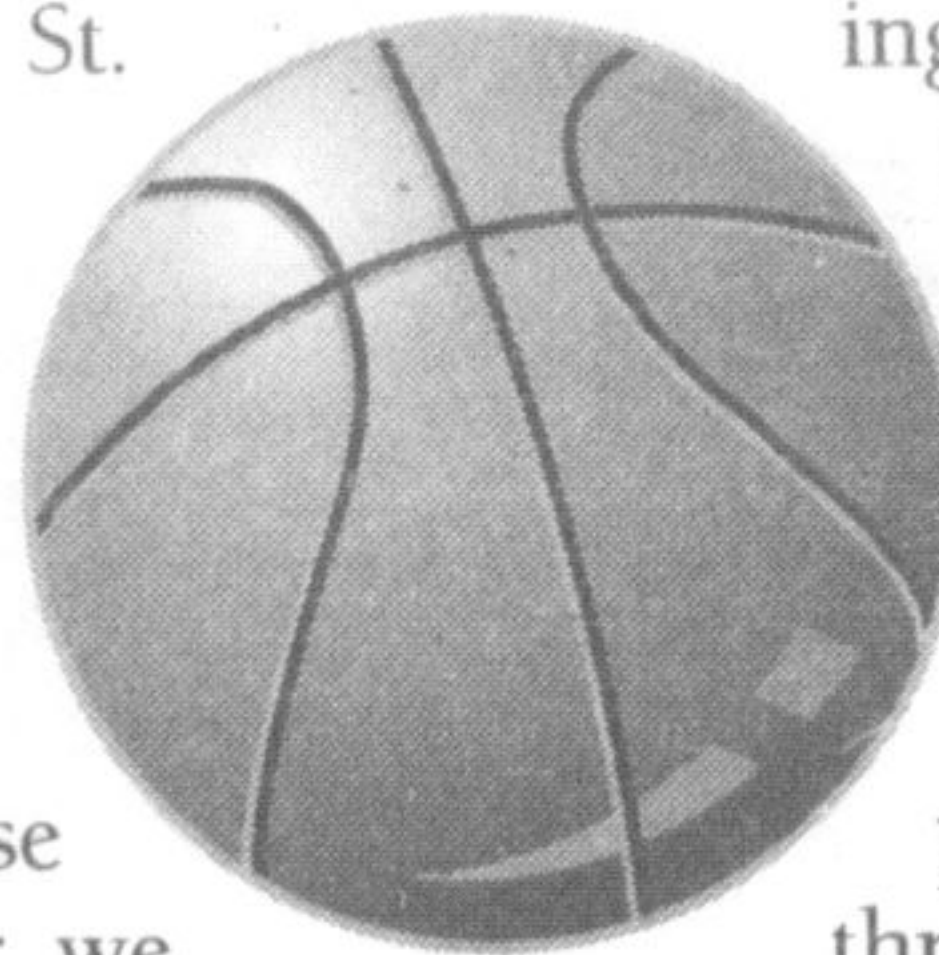
Supporting cast player Carlos Loor stepped up his game to aid in the decisive win, which followed a hard-fought split in pool play.

Rallying from a seven-point deficit after the first quarter, the Panthers had edged past the south Halton rivals by half time and didn't look back.

"We put the pedal to the medal in the third quarter and played excellent," noted Spence, whose team's 36-33 second-round loss to Oakville's St. Andrew represents their only league-play loss this season.

St. Peter's last remaining hurdle to the Halton championship comes this evening in Oakville, where they'll take on Mother Teresa.

Halton's gold and bronze-medal games for both boys and girls will be contested at Notre Dame Secondary School in Burlington Thursday.



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