



EYE ON THE BIRDIE: Bishop Reding's Natalie Plociennik competes in girls singles play at Wednesday's GHAC badminton championships at E.C. Drury High School. She placed fifth. Also representing Milton, Christine Peral and Wanzsu Qiu of Milton District finished eighth in girls doubles.

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Stags claim OBA D-3 title

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Adversity couldn't have come at a worse time, or been met with a better outcome.

Midway through the Ontario Division 3 championship final in Mississauga, the Under-13 Milton Stags found themselves down a dozen points to their arch-rival Oakville Vytis.

Despite having fallen 47-36 to the Stags in opening-round play, the Vytis hit four three-pointers early in the championship rematch and looked poised to reclaim the edge they'd held over their neighbouring foes through the regular season.

Milton, however, had other ideas.

Battling back with stifling defence and one of their most fundamentally-sound performances of the year, the Stags wiped out their sizable deficit by half time and kept the pressure up en route to a 63-56 title victory.

The comeback capped an undefeated weekend for the Under-13 boys, who just two years ago weren't even in the D-6 championship picture.

"The difference (at provincials) was simply that we played more complete games, and our defensive intensity was much better," said head coach Ramon Oliveros, whose team enjoyed their second-highest scoring output all season in the finals. "We



WE'RE #1: The Stags celebrate their victory.

tried changing things up every few plays to try and confuse their (Oakville) offence. Overall, we had a better team effort."

With the big trio of Waleed Siddiqui, Tucker Johnson and David Bishai forming a collectively-fierce

presence under the basket, Milton's defence kept the Vytis in check for much of the second half. Tyrique Moe also helped stymie Oakville with a block and two key steals.

Offensively, captain Jordan Brathwaite led with 15 points. Also hitting double digits — with 11 and 10 points respectively — were Arvin Filio and Christian David.

Ranked sixth out of eight teams in Mississauga, Milton refused to be bound by the modest expectations that ranking held — jumping out of the gate with a 47-36 win over the Vytis.

Buoyed by that decisive victory — pay-back for a pair of losses to Oakville earlier in the year — the Stags went on to complete a round-robin sweep with wins over Bros. Basketball (49-36) and Niagara Falls Red Raiders (49-38). From there, they stamped their ticket to the championship with a 38-33 triumph over the Guelph CYO All-Stars.

Rounding out the squad were Nick Beaulieu, Tyler Oliveros, Mathushan Srikannathasan, Bobby Zhang and Dami Abdul.

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