

# Wildcat girls fight for top spot in north basketball

As the season begins to wind down in elementary school basketball nothing has been decided in the north division.

Centennial has a substantial four point lead in the boys league while W.I. Dick holds a slim, single point margin, in the girls league. In both cases Sam Sherratt is lurking in second, waiting for a slip.

Centennial's boys took wins over Brookville 54-17, Stewarttown 36-29 and Brookville again 54-12 to push their record to 6-1. In the first Brookville win Centennial was paced by Dave Welburn's 12 points. Kyle Martin had four for the losers.

In the second game against Brookville Ryan Howatt dropped 12 points, Maft Joliffe had 11 and Derek Downey potted 10. Both Robin McCall and Shawn Postma popped five for Brookville. Mashinter led the way for Centennial over Stewarttown with 10 points while J.M. Ogden knocked down 13 for Stewarttown.

In other games Sam Sherratt beat McKenzie-Smith 41-25. Dave Dolliver had 10 points for McKenzie-Smith and teammate Shawn Hopkins had eight. High scorer for Sherratt was unavailable.

W.I. Dick squeaked past Stewarttown 39-32 with Devin Richardson scoring 17 points for the winners and J.M. Ogden matching the total for the vanquished. Richardson's teammate Steve Roy poured in 15 for the Wildcats.

W.I. Dick stayed in the hunt with a 46-32 win over McKenzie-Smith to leave them only four points out of first. Richardson again led the hit parade for the Wildcats but Dolliver out-pointed him 14-12 on the day.

Sherratt took the points in a game with Brookville 27-21 with Daryl VanLoosen knock-

ing down 10 and Dan Partello leading Brookville with six.

Things are closer in the girls division with league leading W.I. Dick claiming wins over Stewarttown 31-19 and McKenzie-Smith 52-32 to keep their one point edge in the standings.

The Wildcats got 10 points from Kelly Ivens and eight more from Jenny Brown in the Stewarttown win while Allison Lewis, Bridget Campbell and Barb Merry scored all the points for the losers.

W.I. Dick got 10 points in the Wildcat win over McKenzie-Smith while Heather Hills won the week's scoring title with 20 in the losing cause.

In other games second place Sherratt crushed Stewarttown 42-16. Kelly MacDonald and Jennifer Sweetland scored 10 and Kim Friedrich knocked down six in the win while Heather

Allan doubled her teammate Bridget Campbell's four for Stewarttown.

Centennial squeaked by Brookville 28-24. Tanya Martin scored 16 for Centennial while Amanda Bonnell added 18 for Brookville.

Sherratt more than doubled McKenzie-Smith 51-25 led by Kelly Pierson's 14 points. Sweetland and Friedrich each knocked down six. McKenzie-Smith got eight from Shondra Stroud, eight more from Heather Trotter and a final eight from Heather Hills.

Brookville edged out Centennial 22-21 as Bonnell led the way with 16 points and Karen Farris popped six for Centennial. Centennial bounced back to crush Stewarttown 39-10. Shannon Nolan notched 12 for the winners while Kate Potosky hit 10 and Tanya Martin claimed eight. Amy Clark led the way for Stewarttown with three.

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## Sports

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E.C. Drury's Graeme Dugale (31) works the offensive zone against Bishop Reding's Matthew Parent (15) in a midget basketball game at E.C. Drury on Tuesday. Reding won the midget contest 42-27 and then swept the Spartans with a 58-41 win in the junior game.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Reding takes both ends of twin bill

By PAUL ZOMER  
Special to The Champion

The E.C. Drury Spartans dropped both games of a basketball doubleheader Tuesday to the visiting Bishop Reding Royals.

The midget boys started it off for the Royals, beating the Spartans 42-27. Neal Bagley got things rolling for the Royals early, making good on two foul shots. He then went on to lead his team to victory with 25 points.

Bishop Reding coach Joanne Mastroluisi was pleased

with her team's effort, adding that they were really coming together and playing well. Although Mastroluisi didn't make too much out of beating a cross-town rival, she did say, "It's still nice to beat another Milton team."

Bishop Reding's junior boys completed Tuesday's sweep over Drury with a 58-41 win.

The junior Royals, who have a good chance at finishing in first place, were led by Peter Stelter with 24 points. Jeff Lee and Rick O'Donnell had 16 points each for E.C. Drury.

## Dan Fiorita blanks Milton District 5-0

By BRAD REAUME

Just a little post-season tune-up

please. The high school hockey regular season ended with a whimper as Milton District hooked up with Bishop Reding at Memorial Arena on Tuesday in what amounted to a meaningless game.

Reding won the contest 5-0 but it affects the playoff match-ups not one iota. These same two teams will square off in the first round of the playoffs on Tuesday, Feb 25 at Memorial Arena on Thompson Road. Game time is 3 p.m.

While Dan Fiorita recorded the shutout, it was against a lacklustre Milton District team. Counterpart Ryan Peddie in the Mustang goal actually had a spectacular game making numerous saves of point blank blasts. Most of the goals against him came on second efforts.

"Yeah, Ryan (Peddie) played well," agreed Milton District head coach Bob Pitt. "Unfortunately the team didn't play well in front of him."

The Mustangs were playing without the services of three regulars who were serving a suspension so consequently Pitt dismisses the

game, even as a portent of things to come.

"We're not afraid of Bishop Reding," he said. "We can beat them but the guys are going to have to turn it back on to do it."

Jim Wood opened the scoring for Reding at the 1:00 mark of the initial frame. An assist went to Caleb Powell. The Royals scored again at 1:01 of the second period when Brian Mallany knocked home a rebound off the back boards from Rob Harndon's point shot.

Powell put the game away for Reding when he scored at the 1:40 mark of the third, tipping in a shot from Jamie Galway. Rob Bednarski finished a nice passing play with Joe Piazza at 6:23 as he flipped it upstairs and past Peddie for a 4-0 lead and Powell knocked home a rebound at 9:24 to end the scoring.

"It's all a matter of whether the kids want to play a disciplined style," Pitt said of their chances in the playoff.

Milton District will go into the playoffs with all their players except Craig Rintamaki who was given a charging major and will have to sit out a one game suspension.

## Merchants begin their second season tonight

Once burnt, twice shy. Live and learn. Don't count your chickens before they're hatched. An adage convention? Well yeah, sort of.

Actually it's the Milton Merchants coaches' office, but the similarity is strong. With the team coming off their best season in the memories of those who still have memories, a record 63 points on a 29-8-5 record, the front office is playing it cool.

There will be no looking past the task at hand, no wildly optimistic predictions, no grandiose plans, no mention of the future.

The Merchants have used the lessons of the last two seasons to guide them on their quest for junior B hockey supremacy.

The official line from Merchant coach and general manager Rick Bince is that it doesn't matter who they face in the playoffs, but Brampton, has to weigh on his mind. The Capitals, which Bince coached prior to coming to Milton three seasons ago, have defeated Milton two years in a row. Each time a bitter pill for Bince.

This season Milton won every season series, except their series with Brampton. The Capitals won four games to Milton's two.

Clancy Seymour, a left winger now with Milton who played with Brampton last year, claims it doesn't matter who the Merchants play. Prod him a bit and he will confess to wanting to play Brampton, in fact relishing the opportunity should it come his way, but his answer still holds a concrete steeliness of work.

The joy of playing that should pervade all sport is missing as the Merchants set their shoulders for the job ahead. All season Bince has claimed that where the team finished in the standings was unimportant, as long as they made the playoffs, as long as they did well in the playoffs.

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