

Senior Crusaders storm to GB title

by Garry Forbes

The St. Theresa's High School Senior Crusaders boys' volleyball team have won a ticket to next weekend's Ontario

Federation of Schools Athletic Association championship. And they won't be spectators.

The Crusaders flattened all four schools of opposition in Tuesday's Georgian Bay Secondary Schools Athletic Association championships, beating host Collingwood Collegiate

Institute in the final. Now, with that title firmly in hand, they'll pack their uniforms and head for London next Friday and to try to prove they're the best high school volleyball

team in the province. Tuesday's tournament was an indicator of just how powerful the St. Theresa's squad is. The round-robin series was little more than a cakewalk for the

Crusaders as they won all eight games over their opponents - each of whom had won GBSSA Zone titles last week.

After dumping St. Robert's (Thornhill) 15-9, 15-9 in their tourney opener, the Crusaders defeated Collingwood 15-3, 15-13, and rolled over Parry Sound 15-2, 15-6.

Their final round-robin foe, Stouffville, gave them the most trouble. But, as expected, the Crusaders came through with the win, 16-14, 15-12.

In the championship final, Collingwood was given a second chance and, after a 15-4 drubbing in the first game, put up a solid fight in the second before bowing out 16-14 to give St. Theresa's a perfect tournament record and their pass to a provincial title shot.

"I think we were a little stronger on the attack than the others that day," Crusaders coach Rick Presse said. "We won the first game of the final fairly strongly, but they came back and really forced us."

Everybody contributed, said Presse: Jeff Dunn, Paul Duval and Chris Weisflog helped out with excellent blocking; strong power attacks came from the outside off the fingers of Vince Deschamps and Paul Cox; and Brian Quesnelle teamed up with Cox to disguise their teammates' settings and work their opposition blockers into a confused heap.

It was that kind of team effort that helped St. Theresa's to GBSSA and OFSAA 'A' Division titles the past two years ('A' Division is for schools with less than 750 students, 'AA' is 750 and up; St. Theresa's has 180 students). And it was that same kind of team effort expended last week at Midland Secondary School that earned them a berth in the GBSSA finals.

And, next weekend, it will be that same collective excellence that may bring the top Ontario high school volleyball championship to the little school with the big roar.



...and Juniors just miss

The St. Theresa's Junior Crusaders may be somewhat overshadowed by their Senior counterparts, but that doesn't bother them. After all, many of them will be Senior Crusaders next year.

And they can be secure in the thought that the STHS Seniors are one of the few teams in the province that have the ability to overshadow them.

However, one other team, Collingwood Collegiate Institute, got away with it by defeating the STHS Juniors two games to one at the Georgian Bay Secondary Schools Athletic Association championships Tuesday in Collingwood.

They received a hint of what was to be in the round-robin series, where they clobbered Sacred Heart, ewmarkel) Parry Sound and

Woodbridge before splitting 15-6, 10-15 with Collingwood.

Round-robin results pitted the two clubs in the final, and, though St. T's gave a tough Collingwood team their toughest test of the tournament, they came out of the skirmish with a 15-17, 15-13, 12-15 loss.

Kerry Heins and Marlon Geiseler gave outstanding performances on both offense and defense throughout the tournament, said coach Bruce Finlayson,

who also gave the Collingwood club credit for their hustle and determination in downing the spunky squad.

The Juniors finished the season with three tournament titles and a successful showing in the recent Senior tournament in Barrie.

They made it to the playoffs in that senior test, a tournament which was won by - you guessed it - the STHS seniors.

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Centennials just won't staydown

by Garry Forbes

It's not how, it's how many - and though the Midland Centennials outscored the Oro 77's 10-9 in a messy Georgian Bay Junior C shootout Wednesday in Oro, the magic number for the Cents was two.

For it was the two points they picked up when the smoke finally cleared at Oro Community Centre that lifted the Centennials from a three-way tie for second back up into a share for the league lead with the Penetanguishene Kings.

Several teams are hot on the trail of the local league-leaders, however, and all eight teams in the circuit will be in action Friday. Midland and Penetanguishene will

try to maintain their lofty status with home games, with the Centennials hosting the Huntsville Huskies and the Kings taking on the 77's. Both games will start at 8:30 p.m.

Noel McEachern led the way for the Centennials Wednesday with three goals and one

**Cents 10,
Oro 9**

assist. Other Midland goal-getters were Paul Hahn, with two, Rick Rever, Ed Cooper, Steve Bressette, Frank Dance and Dwayne Story. Team captain Craig Brown picked up three assists.

Dwayne Latondress

did the goaltending duty for the Centennials, facing 46 shots while his teammates fired 44 at the other end.

Midland got off to a good start, outscoring the 77's 4-2 in the first period and maintaining their two-goal lead when each club came up with four in the second.

The Cents pulled away early in the third with two goals, but the host team wouldn't back down, switching goaltenders to hold Midland off the board while they proceeded to score three more times and press for the tie. Midland's defensive corps came up with enough, however, to hold Oro back in the final three minutes and give the Centennials their big two points.



Battling back to top

The Midland Centennials are back into a first-place tie with local rival Penetanguishene Kings after coming

out on top of a 10-9 skirmish in Oro Wednesday. Both the Cents and the Kings are in action at home tonight.

Fox returns to Centennials

Doug Fox has returned to the Midland Centennials.

Fox, manager of the Georgian Bay Junior C club since their inception four years ago, quit two weeks back because, he said, excessive penalties were hurting the team's effort and he just didn't want to be a part of a downfall caused by the actions of a few hot tempers.

At the time, he said he didn't think he'd be returning, but promised coach Tom Garner he'd take another look after a couple of weeks.

Wednesday in Oro, Fox returned as manager. However, the setting was, if not

ironic, a pretty good indication that things really have changed on the Centennials.

The Centennials are the highest-penalized club in the league with 384 minutes in 11 games. The Oro 77's are second at 343. Considering those stats, one might expect trouble when the two clubs meet. Yet it didn't come, - the Cents picked up only seven minors and Oro were handed only six - and, the setting proved a surprisingly calm environment for the return of a man who has all along been a proponent of fewer penalties and more goals.