



MICHELLE SIU / OAKVILLE BEAVER

**WILDCATS ADVANCE:** Courtney Brand of the Holy Trinity Titans (left) attempts to block a hit by White Oaks Wildcats player Kirsten French during Wednesday's Halton senior girls' volleyball AAAA quarter-final contest at Trinity. The Titans won in straight sets to advance to the semifinals against the Georgetown Rebels.

## Plenty of Oakville squads alive for Halton titles

It appears that Oakville schools will be heavily represented when the Halton Secondary School Athletic Association holds its boys' basketball and girls' volleyball championship games next week at Sheridan College.

As of yesterday (Thursday), there was a possibility that local teams would fill seven of the eight Halton finals berths available for Tuesday's championship day. In senior Tier 1 play, the Loyola Hawks and Holy Trinity Titans were both scheduled to host semifinal games against Burlington opponents yesterday. Loyola and Trinity were also set to collide in the junior Tier 1 semifinals, with the winner advancing to face either Burlington's Nelson or Georgetown's Christ the King in

Tuesday's final.

The Tier 2 finals in both senior and junior boys' basketball will be all-Oakville matchups. St. Thomas Aquinas and King's Christian Collegiate will clash in the senior game, while T.A. Blakelock and Aquinas will meet in the junior title game.

Many local teams were still also in contention for girls' volleyball crowns as of yesterday.

In senior, Loyola and White Oaks have reached the AAAA semifinals, while Aquinas is in the A/AA semis. In junior, T.A. Blakelock is in the AAA semifinals and Aquinas is in the A/AA semifinals.

The girls' volleyball finals will be contested Thursday.

## Chetrat sets four records at OUA swimming meet

*Olympic hopeful in "rarified room", U of T coach says*

By Herb Garbutt  
 OAKVILLE BEAVER STAFF

It was not the number of records Zack Chetrat set, though establishing four new marks at the Ontario University Athletics swim championships is a pretty impressive feat.

Instead, what caught the eye of University of Toronto coach Byron MacDonald was how long those records had gone untouched. If you ignore the fact that one of the records the Oakville swimmer toppled was his own, the four touchstones had been on the books for an average of 16 years.

"If a record is broken every two, three or four years, you see that it's not that difficult," MacDonald said. "When you start taking down records that are 10, 20 years old, that's an indication that you're in rarified room. You look at Alex Baumann (a double gold medalist and world record setter at the 1984 Olympics) and he still holds a couple OUA records. It puts it in perspective that you're starting to reach an unparalleled level."

The granddaddy of Chetrat's records was the 400-metre freestyle, where he topped the mark of David Schmilt, who set the record while swimming for Brock University in 1985, a year after he represented Canada at the Olympics in Los Angeles. The 20-year-old Chetrat didn't just beat the record, he took more than a second and a half off, finishing in a time of three minutes, 51.59 seconds (beating the old record of 3:53.22).

Chetrat also established new OUA standards in the 100m and 200m butterfly. The 200m mark topped his own record set in his rookie season of 2009. At that time, the previous record by Bob Hayes had stood for a decade. Chetrat became the first swimmer to break the two-minute mark in the event, with a time of 1:59.25.

Of his three individual records, the 100m butterfly was the most recent, having been set in 2004. It was also the closest. Chetrat shaved three one-hundredths off the time of Western's Brad Vanderkam, hitting the wall in 53.86 seconds.

Chetrat needed some help with the final record as the U of T 4x200m relay team wiped out a mark as old as Chetrat. Teaming up with fellow Oakville Aquatics

Club member Curtis Samuel as well as Varsity Blues teammates Frank Despond and Andy Townsend, they finished in 7:27.15, bettering the 1991 mark of 7:29.57.

Chetrat's performance led the Varsity Blues to their eighth straight OUA men's title.

MacDonald calls Chetrat "a tough swimmer," saying he has the ability to summon an outstanding performance under almost any conditions. Chetrat has been working with Australian John Rogers at U of T's high-performance centre this year and because of Chetrat's 'toughness', he is handled differently than other swimmers.

"John did not back Zack off. In swimming, you're only supposed to bring your A game once a year, the rest is what we call hard work. Zack is such a workhorse, he can take a hard workout and turn around the next day and give you a great race. He's a tough, tough guy."

MacDonald said he saw great potential in Chetrat when he recruited him and the former White Oaks student continues to realize what his coach envisioned.

- A Canadian Interuniversity Sport championship in his first year. Check.
- Multiple CIS titles and winning a national title in club swimming. Check.

This year, MacDonald wants Chetrat to become a regular at international events. And not just make the team, but produce results. He then sees top 20 in the world and top 15 in the world — the standard that would land him on the Olympic team — in the following year.

"So far he's holding true to form," said MacDonald.

"Zack's a born racer. He might be too tired to set a record but he'll give you everything he has."

Other medal winners at the OUA championships included Oakville's Katie Fox, who helped the Western 200m freestyle relay team win a bronze medal. The Western women's team also defended its OUA championship.

Former Abbey Park student Chad Johnson helped Guelph take the bronze medal in the men's 200m freestyle relay. Johnson also qualified for the CIS championships in the 50m freestyle.

The CIS championships will be held in Calgary Feb. 24-26.