

# SPORTS

Visit [insidehalton.com](http://insidehalton.com) for more coverage

## Mustangs score tier 2 senior basketball title

*Looking to build family atmosphere, MD celebrates with past and present players*

**HERB GARBUTT**

[hgarbutt@burlingtonpost.com](mailto:hgarbutt@burlingtonpost.com)

It took a malfunctioning scoreboard to show the Milton District Mustangs what they were capable of.

Coaches will often tell players to play as if the score is 0-0. The message: focus on what you need to do, not the score. The Mustangs had no choice at a pre-season tournament where the scoreboard wasn't working.

To that point, the Mustangs were struggling to get the returning seniors to mesh with a group of players moving up from the junior ranks. But, that day, they moved the ball well, pushed the pace and found teammates for open looks.

When the final buzzer sounded, Zach Meier figured they had won by 10.

They won by more than 30.

"We knew when we played that game, we stuck to what we do best. We played a fast-paced game, and since then, we've played every game like that," Meier said. "We've been in situations where we've said, 'Keep your head up.' We never have that negative energy. Just think of the next

play and don't get stuck on a bad play."

That's exactly what the Mustangs did when they found themselves down 28-22 to the Robert Bateman Wild in the Halton senior tier 2 basketball final. Meier scored five points in the last 12 seconds of the half to cut the gap to one.

Milton carried that momentum into the second half, starting with a 9-1 run on its way to a 56-43 win.

"We definitely wanted to repeat," said Meier, a member of the Mustangs' junior championship team last year, who had 25 points in the final. "And for the Grade 12s, we wanted to win for them in their last year."

Coach Marty MacIntyre said that desire was evident with the way the Mustangs played in the final.

"At one point, we had four guys on the deck going for a loose ball," he said. "When you work hard, it's contagious."

Though Milton remained in control for much of the second half, Bateman continued to hang around, waiting for its opportunity. With five minutes to play, it was a five-

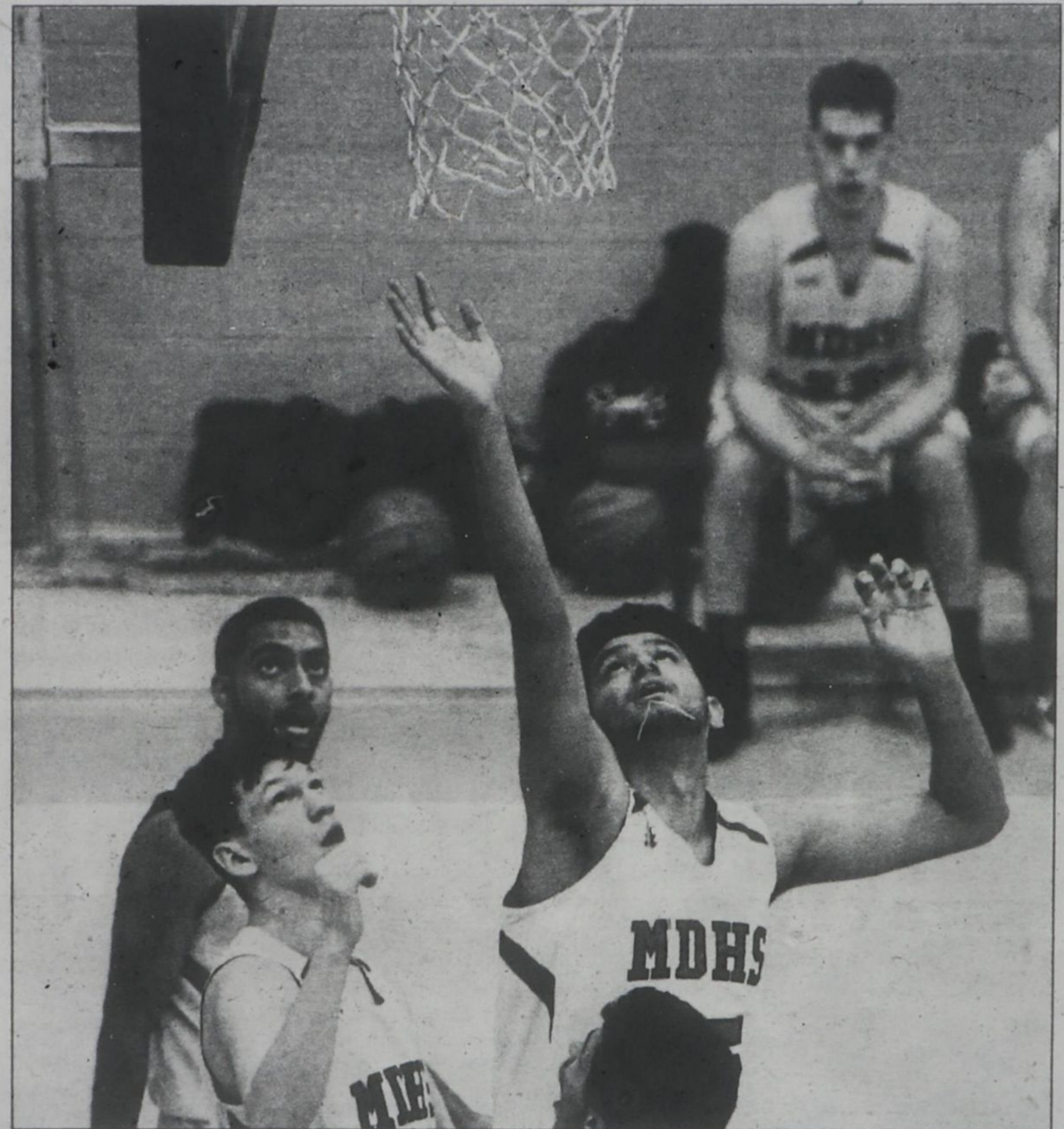
point game. Then, on four consecutive possessions, Adeen Farooq found someone for an open look or going to the basket, assisting on buckets by Meier (twice), Ian Wilson and Luke Crowley. Meanwhile, the defence came up with three consecutive stops by taking away the Wild's inside game, allowing Milton to stretch the lead to 13.

"Playing with these guys for four years, it's like a family," said Farooq, who had 10 points and six rebounds. "These juniors were crazy. They came in off a championship and everyone bonded on and off the court."

That's what MacIntyre wanted most from his team, a family that extends beyond the current roster.

"Really, this was years in the making," he said. "We lost some great players and some of those guys were here today supporting us. We want everyone to feel a part of something bigger."

As former players joined current players for a team picture with the championship trophy, it was clear the Mustangs had achieved their goal. They didn't need a scoreboard to tell them that.



Nikki Wesley / Metroland

Milton District's Dwij Padia watches his shot during the Halton senior boys tier 2 basketball final against Robert Bateman at Sheridan College.

**MILTON Denture Clinic**

**FREE CONSULTATION**  
**24 HOUR EMERGENCY SERVICE**

30 Years  
In Business

Now available

- Night Guards
- Implant Dentures
- Sports Guards
- Immediate Dentures
- Repairs in 1 Hour
- Same Day Relines
- House & Hospital Calls
- Dental Insurance Accepted

**G.T. Trenton DD and Jill Stevenson DD, 160 Mill St. (Downtown Milton)**  
www.miltdentureclinic.com | miltdentureclinic@cogeco.net  
**905-876-2000** After hours emergency - 905-854-7100

**SHOP ONLINE!**  
[miltonhardwood.com](http://miltonhardwood.com)

**Winner of:** 2015 2017

**Canadian Red Oak, Hard Maple,  
or Wire Brushed Ash**  
**4 1/4" for \$4.99 per sq ft**  
while quantities last

**905.876.7671**  
Toll Free 1.866.414.0022  
63 Steeles Ave. E. Milton, On

**MILTON**  
HARDWOOD FLOORS

SPECIALIZING IN: Sales, Installation and Stairs, Pre Finished/Engineered, Hand Scraped/Wire Brushed, Sanding and Refinishing, Building/Contractors