

U12 Stags net golden upset in Division 2 Ontario Cup

Seeded last for the Ontario Cup Division 2 championships, the Stags under-12 boys weren't expected to do much more than put up a good fight.

Guess somebody forgot to tell them that.

Throwing a huge monkey wrench into the rankings in St. Catharines, Milton didn't just hold their own but prevailed at every turn en route to an unbeaten title run.

Reaching the gold-medal showdown with a 3-0 preliminary campaign - highlighted by a 44-42 upset over the top-seeded Vaughan Panthers - the Stags punctuated their unlikely championship weekend with a 62-57 victory over the number two-ranked London Ramblers.

That was thanks in large

part to a 27-point performance by ace shooter Quinn Athanassoulis.

Milton looked poised to deliver a blowout win in the final, leading by 16 midway through the contest, before the Ramblers battled back with an onslaught of three-pointers.

Wil Basilio and Matthew Warner's strong rebounding and key defensive stops by Tanner Delevante, Jackson Chisholm and Miles Sandler allowed the Stags to maintain the upper hand and secure the win.

Sandler and Kevin Martalog contributed some late buckets in the championship triumph.

Finishing the regular season at 14-6 in the Canadian Youth Basketball Association, Milton kicked off Ontario Cup weekend with



Milton Stags photo

The Milton Stags U12 boys proudly display the Ontario Cup Division 2 championship banner.

a 55-54 overtime victory against the Brantford Hawks and also downed the Burlington Force 62-46.

"The weekend taught

the boys more than just winning," said head coach Jemar Smith, who led the team alongside Gene Basilio and Scott Chisholm. "By the championship game, I saw 10 young leaders who were supportive of each other on and off the court."

Also part of the championship squad were Joshua Winters, Michael Ugwu and Mate Prusina.

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- Jemar Smith, head coach

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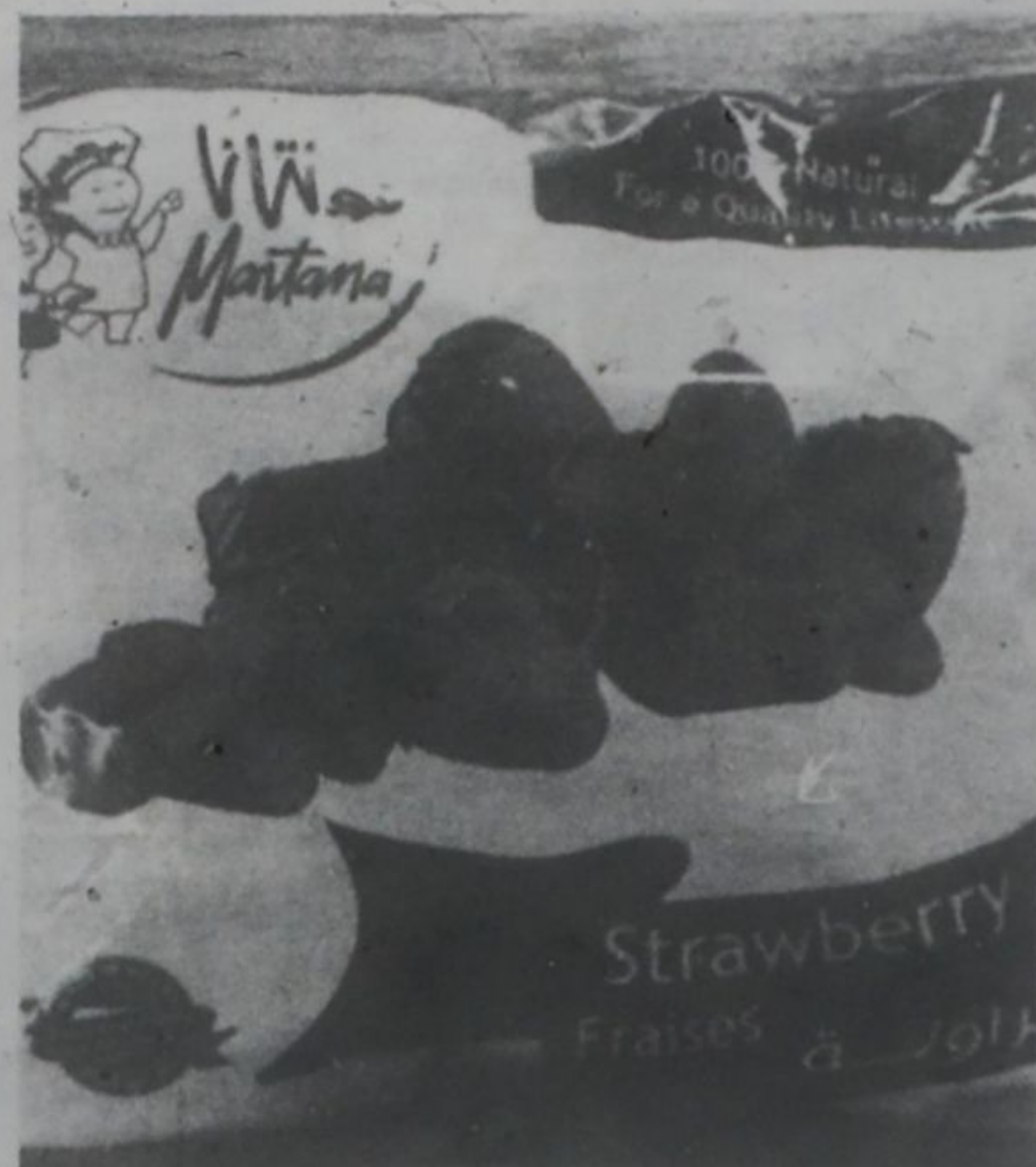
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