

Milton blunts the Blades in the usual scrappy tussle

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

The Merchants-Blades feud lives on. The genuine loathing these two clubs have shown each other in the past, as far back as the 1993-94 playoffs, once again bubbled to the surface Sunday afternoon in Oakville.

The three-hour confrontation featured shades of last December's clash, when two line brawls broke out and a debuting Shane Sullivan received a multi-game suspension and second-degree concussion.

This time around Milton didn't lose "Sully", their overall composure or the game — but instead persevered for a 4-1 victory.

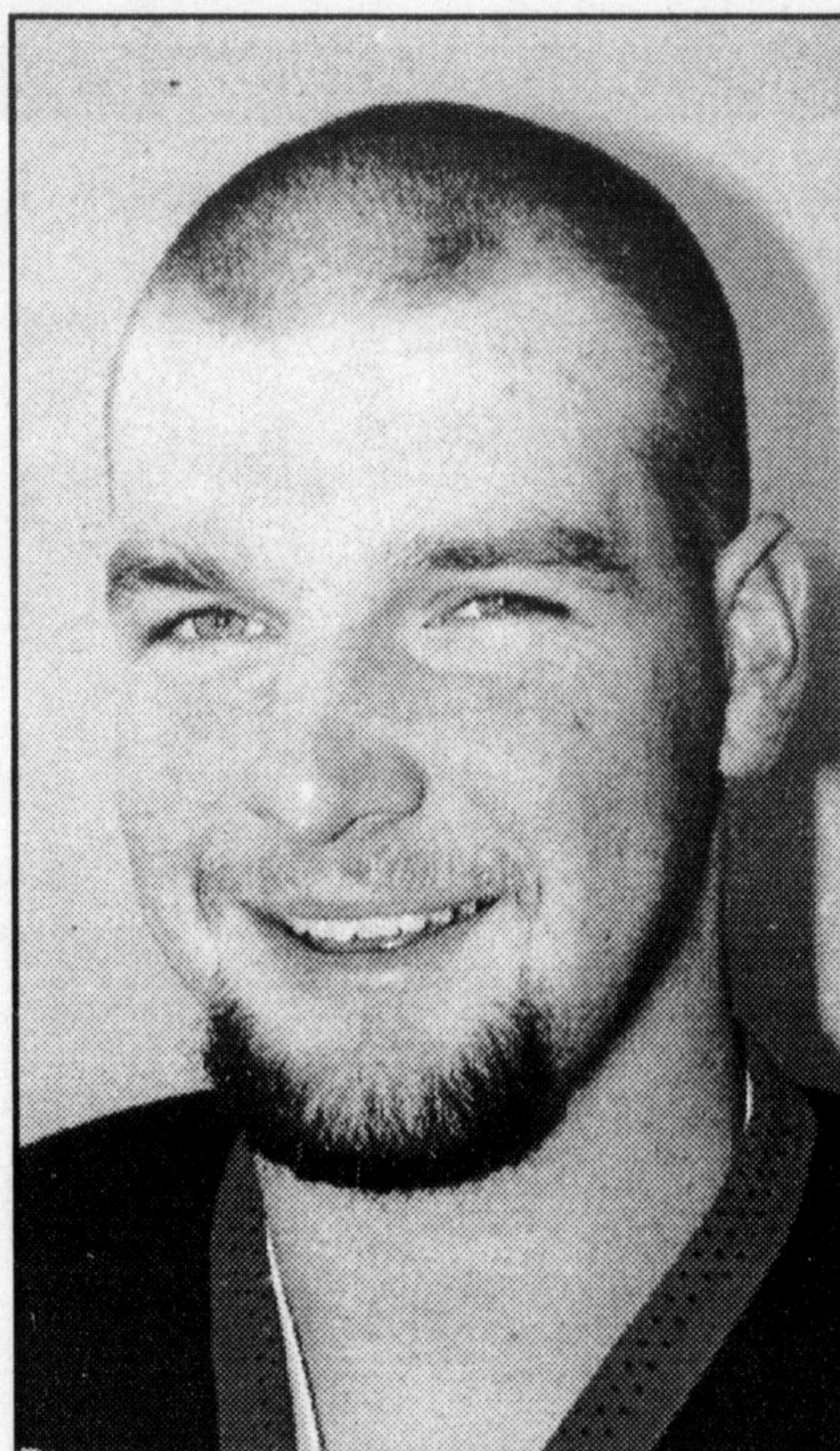
Sullivan did go toe-to-toe with Marc Varteressian, who jumped him from behind for taking the stick to veteran winger Jay Stewart.

Neither player scored a clear decision as linesmen conspired to defray the fight.

Later in the day, rookie forward Nathan Gillies rag-dolled Stewart, whose little brother Danny then offered his face as a speed bag for emerging bruiser Mark McPhail.

McPhail and defence partner Matt Bannan helped blanket Oakville's attack and held them scoreless over the last 44 minutes of play.

While tussles and trash talk were the order of the afternoon, Milton captain Jeff Haydar managed to grab some of the spotlight



Shane Sullivan

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Mustangs' loss is costly; fallback out of playoffs

By STEVE LeBLANC

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For Milton District High's senior football team, Friday's road trip to St. Thomas Aquinas spelled loss — in more ways than one.

In addition to dropping a 26-22 decision to the Raiders, the Mustangs lost offensive sparkplug Jared Robinson.

The veteran fallback — a regular contributor on the score sheet — suffered a season-ending broken ankle during a second-quarter sideline tackle.

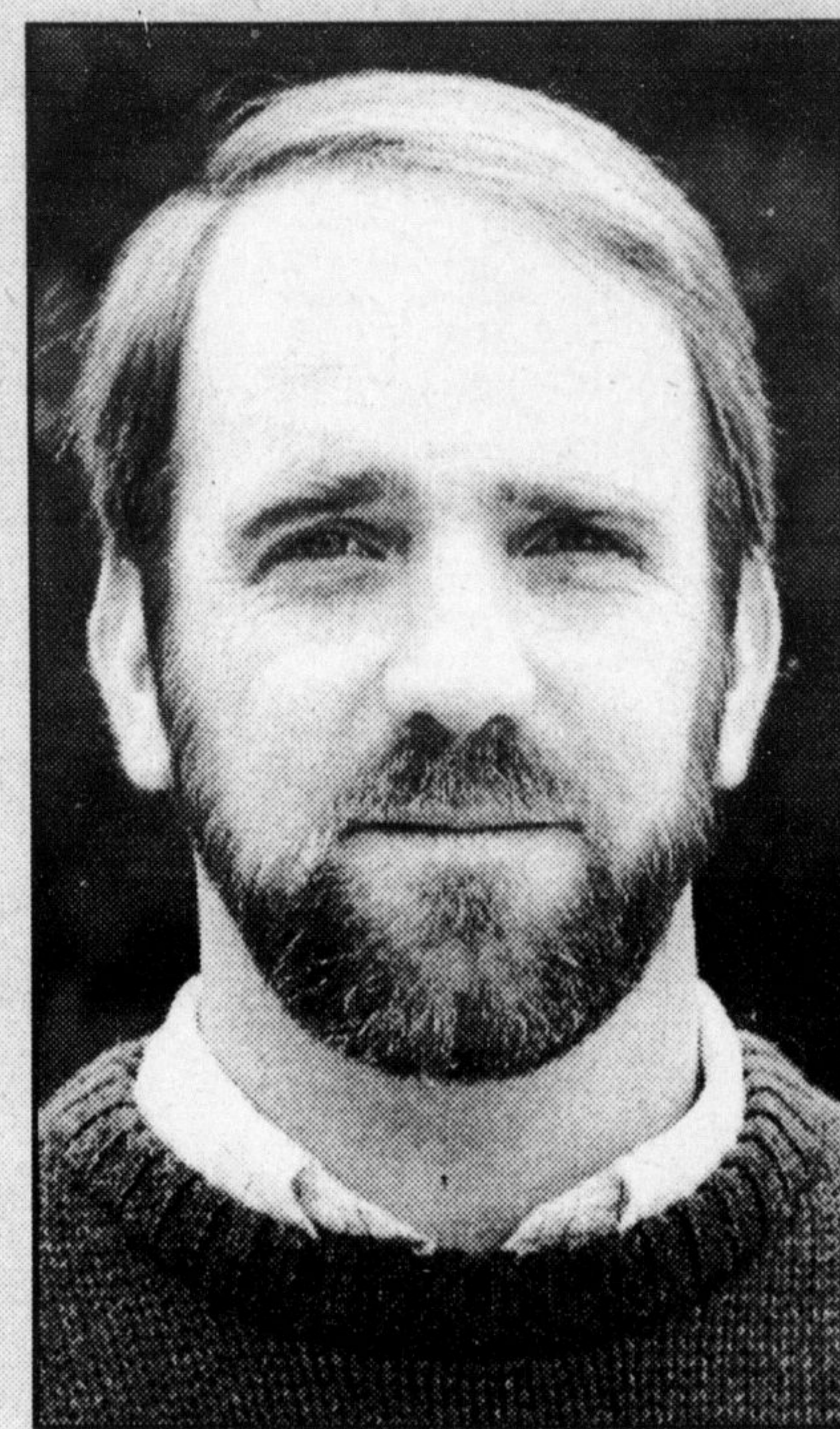
This, as much as anything, curbed MD's drive and cost them a sixth consecutive victory. Said head coach Keith Pearce, "The hit happened right by our guys. It was very disheartening and the long delay took the wind out of our sails."

St. Thomas Aquinas displayed remarkable quickness in the backfield all afternoon and drove the length of the field for three of their four majors.

Their game-winning touchdown came in the last two minutes of play on a 55-yard halfback option.

They also scored on their first possession of each half as well as late in the opening frame.

Leading the charge for the 'Stangs were quarterback Adam Gertzbein and



Keith Pearce

receiver Robyn McCall.

The two combined for MD's first and final touchdowns. McCall hauled in a 13-yard pass on a slant pattern in the first

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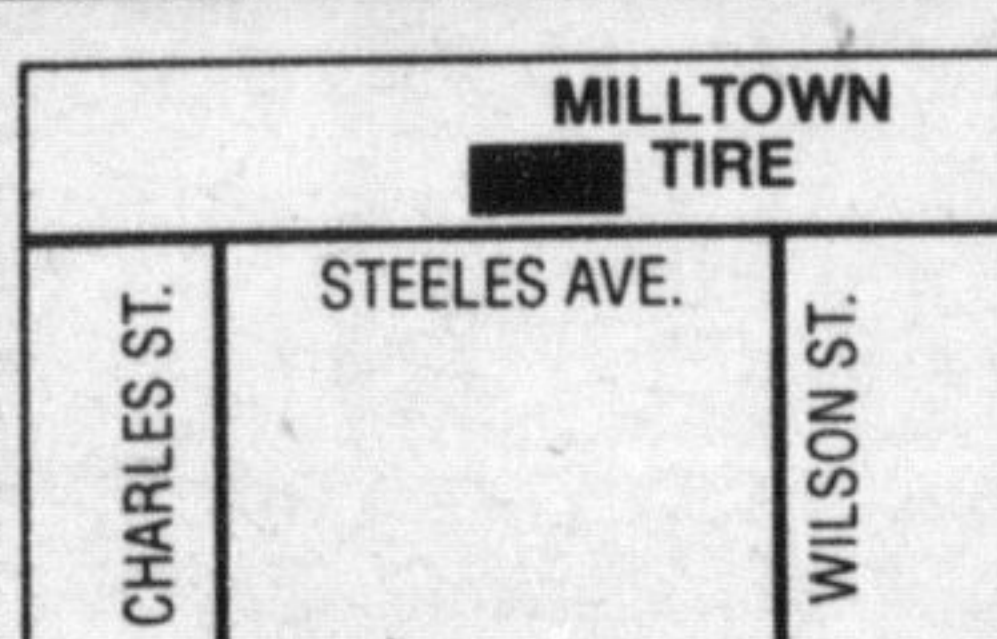
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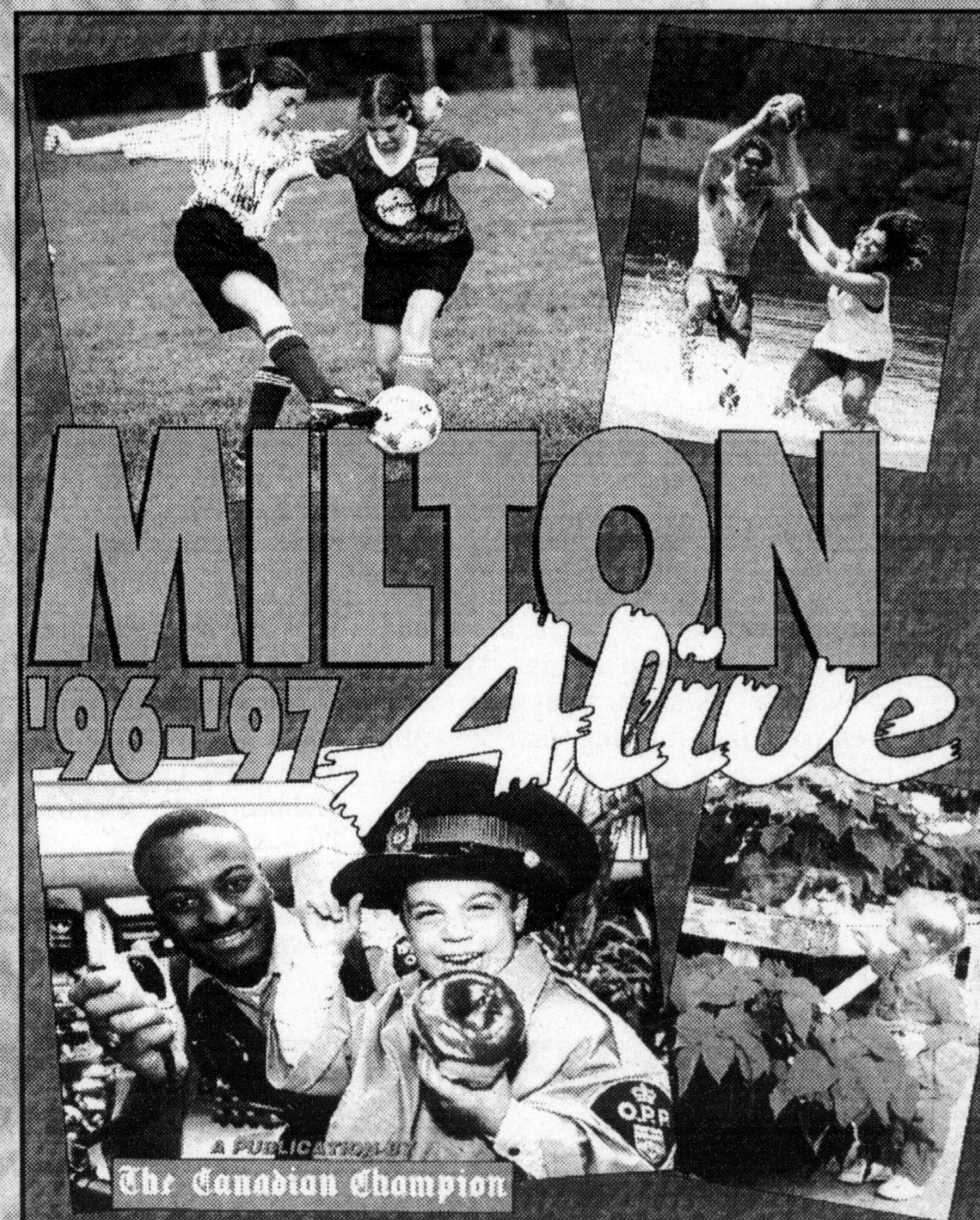


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