

There's no escaping the rumble of the Thunder

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Thunder crashed and the Mavericks' hopes of revenge were dashed.

For the second time in five nights the intermediate lacrosse team was humbled by the Markham Thunder — falling 8-2 Thursday at John Tonelli Sports Centre.

And unlike the initial clash, which came in the finals of the Brampton Tournament, the locals couldn't use a shortened bench as an excuse for their downfall.

Milton had all their big guns back in the lineup, but still had major problems penetrating the visitors' attentive defence. As a result, few quality shots were fired in close quarters on opposing netminder Steve Potter — who was defi-

nately solid throughout the contest, but in all fairness wasn't seriously tested.

At the opposite end of the floor, goalies Jordan Lumb and Josh Arnold performed well and each had to make some key pad saves to hold high-flying Markham under double digits.

Lumb started the game and was replaced after goal number five, which came at the midway mark of the night.

The Thunder staked themselves to 4-1 and 6-2 period leads en route to victory — maintaining an unblemished regular season record while the Mavericks dropped to 2-2-1.

While unable to match up on the scoreboard, Milton enjoyed the upper hand from an excitement

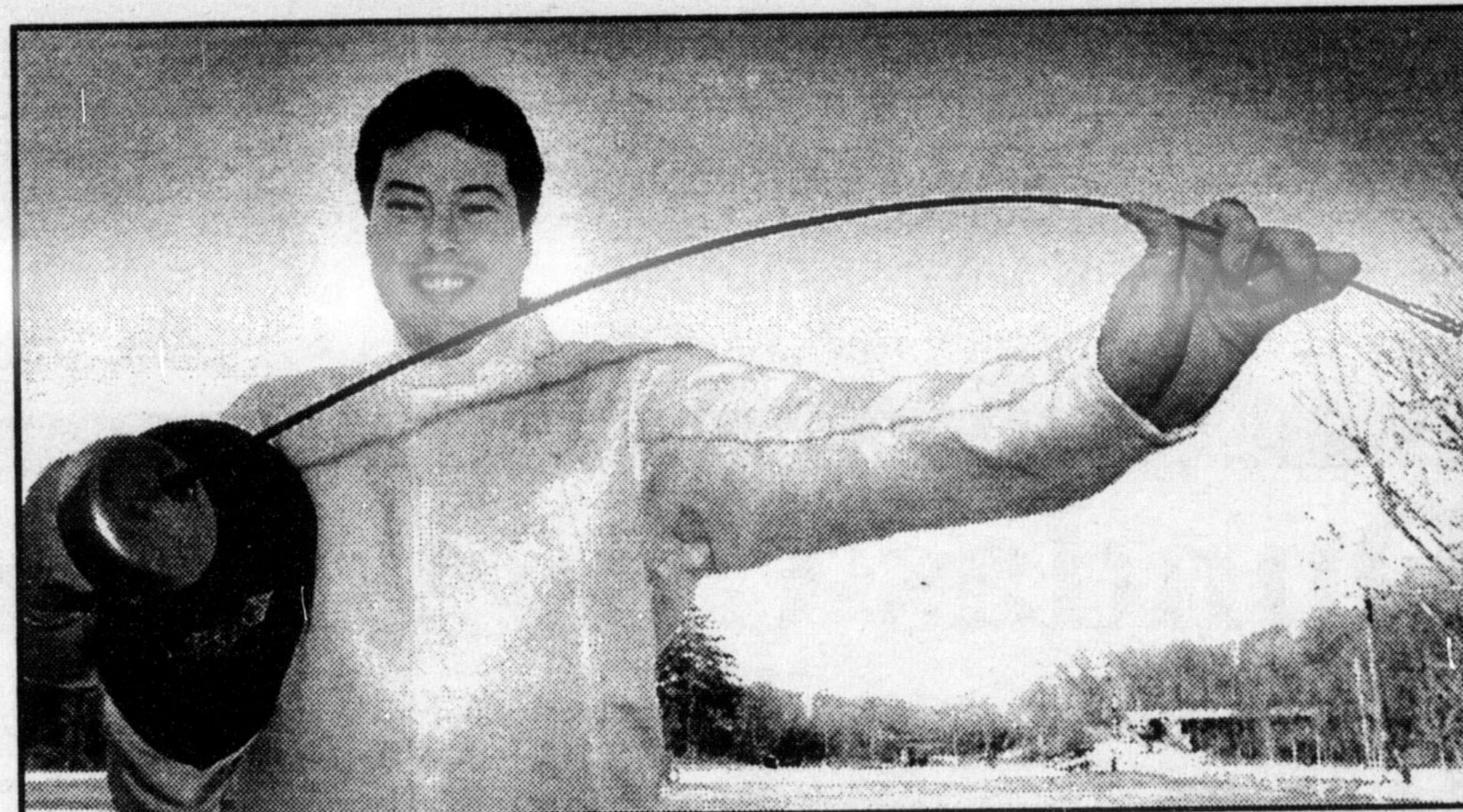
standpoint.

Highlights in this area included Matt Ventura's fierce check on the visiting goalie, who paid a heavy price for venturing too far out of his crease.

Overall, Ventura showed strongly with a two-way performance. He provided sound penalty killing and deposited a lengthy sidearm shot at the end of the second period for his team's final tally.

The Mavericks' other goal was delivered five minutes into the game by Jeff Hohendorf, who somehow got away from a swarm of defenders and sank a wide-angle shot upstairs.

Milton continued an extended home stand last night against Orangeville. Thursday they host Caledon at 9 p.m.



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Stephen Willson continued his comeback season in fencing at the recent Canadian Championships in Edmonton, where he made significant ground after finishing 31st overall.

Championship fencing

Willson working way back after long layoff

Milton's swordsman is slicing his way back to the top.

Stephen Willson continued his comeback season in fencing at the recent Canadian Championships in Edmonton. There he made up significant ground — lost to a lengthy layoff — and finished 31st overall in the Men's Epee class.

Not too shabby, seeing as this is an Olympic qualifying year and all of the country's best fencers were out in full force.

The 32-year-old battled three of the top 20 competitors, including 19th ranked Jimmy Ng, whom he upset

in the first direct elimination round. The victory came in an overtime thriller.

Unfortunately, Willson's Cinderella run would stop there as he was doubled 15-7 by fifth seed Julien Richet-Cooper and bounced from the tournament.

The local fencer finished with an even 3-3 record in the round robin portion of the nationals and placed fourth out of seven in his pool.

One of his losses came against Canada's second seed, Charles St. Hilaire.

"To crack the top 32 in

an Olympic qualifying year is very difficult," remarked Willson's coach J.M. Zakrzewski.

"The experience will definitely help Stephen. He has made it to the big leagues, way ahead of schedule."

Willson's next challenge will be on the local front, where at the Farm Museum July 10 and 11 he'll both organize and compete in the Halton Outdoors Tournament — a grassroots event designed to boost interest in the age-old art of fencing.

Fax your sports reports to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943 seven days a week, 24-hours-a-day.



Milton Minor Hockey Association

Registration

**1999 - 2000 Season
Milton Mall
Sat., June 26, 9:00 am to 12:00 pm**

First time registrants must bring Birth Certificates

For more information call 875-4114

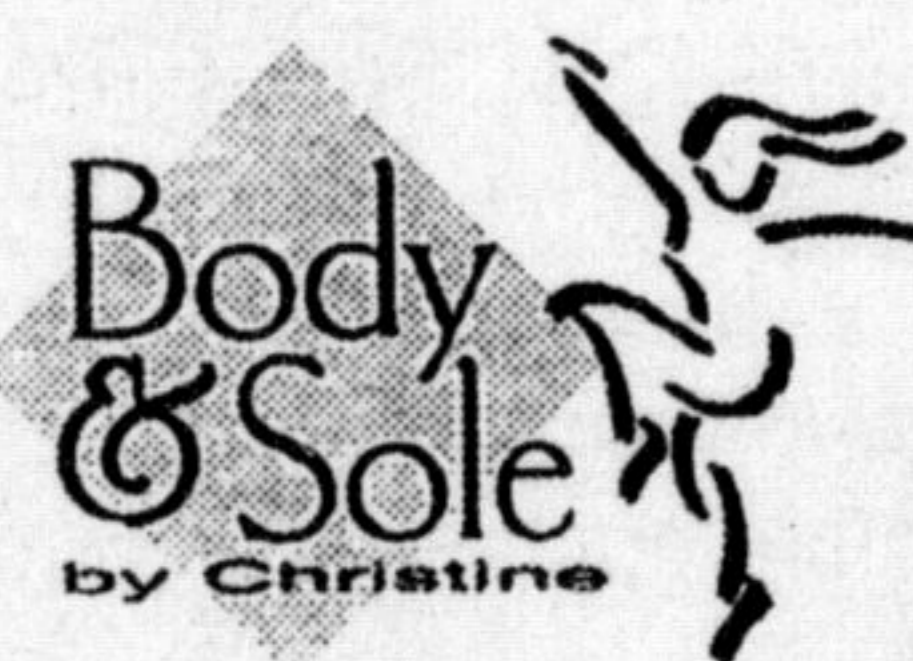
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