



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1999

Early drives don't get it done for Mustangs

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Reaching the end zone twice on the first two plays of the year is enough to give any football team a confidence boost. But perhaps it's one that came a little too quickly and easily for the senior Mustangs' own good.

Ed Stavnitzky has seen it before. A gridiron veteran for nearly two decades, he knows only too well how a false sense of security can develop from an initial taste of success.

"I've seen teams that score right away and think 'Hey, this is going to be a cakewalk,'" said the new head coach for Milton District High School.

Whether it was a case of overconfidence or lack of experience, or in all likelihood a combination of the two, the local squad was silenced after their early offensive output and beaten 12-8 by the host Georgetown Rebels Friday in season opening play.

Following John Melito's 22-yard pass to Ian Robinson — who went another 40 yards for the major and then rushed for a two-point convert — MD had only marginal success at driving the field.

While Robinson had some impressive gains, missed blocking assignments left Melito — currently filling in for injured pivot Jon Sprenger — open to a pair of sacks while a variety of other rookie mistakes cost them the shot at a game one victory.

"We had no penetration from the outside early on. Incidental penalties and fumbles, little things like that killed us today," remarked Stavnitzky. "We've got to fix some things at practice next week."

To Milton's credit, they did hold the host team scoreless through the second half with some fine tackles — by Corey Bowen, Will Hoey-Weston and Brett McClure — and strong pass protection.

Both Rebel touchdowns were delivered by leading rusher Andrew Hann. They came four minutes into the contest and midway through the second quarter, sandwiching the visitors' scoring.

Melito connected on four of seven throws and collected 83 yards during the opening half before switching to an all-ground game that got the team within the 25-yard line twice.

The second time, they tried a fake punt pass and were nearly



Photo by STEVE LeBLANC

Milton District High's Ken Drummond (22) looks to bypass a Georgetown Rebel defender in senior football play Friday. MD lost the season opening clash 12-8.

picked off.

The Mustangs travel to Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas Friday. Their home opener is slated for next Thursday, Oct. 7 against Bishop Reding — at which time Sprenger should be back in

action.

Meanwhile, MD's junior team starts the season tomorrow at home versus Burlington's Lester B. Pearson. Game time is 3:30 p.m.

Merchants run record to 5-0, crunching Caps

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

The Merchants' offensive onslaught continues to gain steam as the new season rolls on.

Scoring 19 times this past weekend, they put two more notches in the win column to remain unbeaten at 5-0.

Enjoying more chemistry than could possibly have been expected this early in the year — with so many new recruits in the lineup — they're averaging more than eight goals a game and have managed no less than seven on any single evening.

Friday at home that firepower burned Brampton 10-2. While the forward units worked wonders inside enemy lines, the blowout was due in part to a shockingly lethargic performance

by the so far uninspired Capitals — who heading into last night's tilt in Buffalo were still winless.

"It's pretty surprising. Brampton is usually one of the top teams, but they've come out really slow," remarked Mike Wheelihan, who tallied three times for his first ever junior hat-trick. "We've got to pounce on these type of teams, before they start playing like they're supposed to."

The 18-year-old winger has been particularly potent to date with five goals and nine assists to lead team scoring. He said being part of a talented line — with proven performers Elliot Altberg and Phil Barski — has helped him get off to another strong season start.

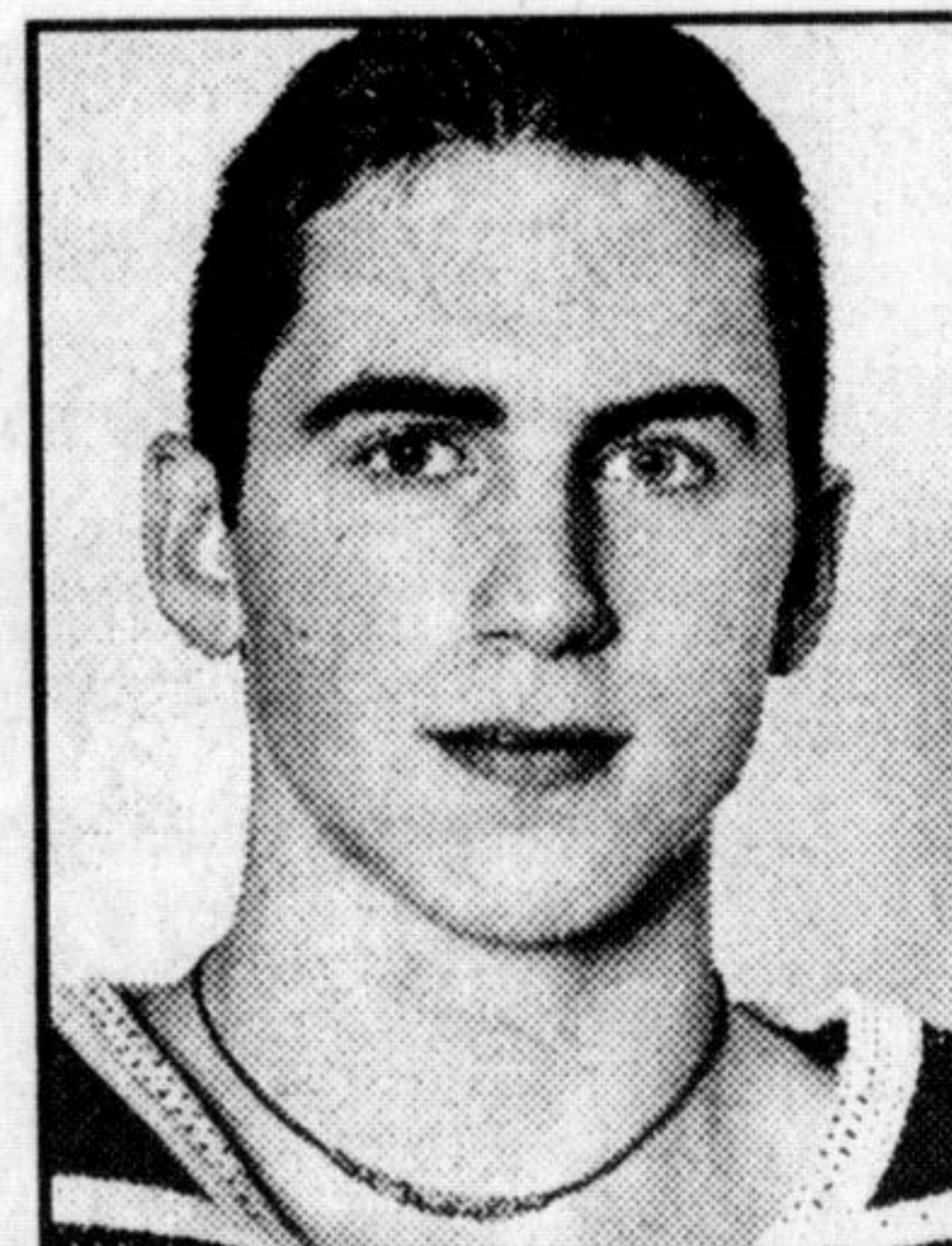
Added Wheelihan, "We're moving the puck well and getting a lot of chances. Hopefully we

can keep it going."

Altberg and Barski also buried the biscuit Friday. The Merchants' hit parade was rounded out with goals by Mark Beisel, Dan DeLong, Ryan Eby, Ian Malcolm and Mike McGrane.

Goaltender Joel Cameron made a few nifty diving saves and stopped two dozen shots overall to record the win.

At Mississauga's Iceland Arena Sunday,



Mike Wheelihan

Milton delivered a second-rate effort for much of the evening but still had enough juice to topple the Chargers 9-5.

Win number five was highlighted by a third period hat-trick by Jeff Petherick and a five-point showcase (a goal and four assists) by Rob Martin.

Mississauga evened the count three times in the opening frame and chased cager Luc Lamothe from the net. Cameron worked the final two periods — allowing a couple of goals on 28 shots.

The Merchants' blueline gave up a handful of breakaways and, more often than not, looked rather vulnerable.

Barski and Eby tallied twice to help cement the victory while Altberg added a single.

COROLLA 2000

MSRP \$18,085

TOYOTA'S SHARPEST DEALS

Lease for **\$284** + tax

*per month for 48 months. Freight & P.D.E. included

*998. down

Value Package Includes:

- The New 125 h.p., VVT-i Engine
- Air •Auto •Dual Air Bags
- AM/FM/CD
- Full Wheel Covers •Body Side Moulding

KNOW YOUR LEASE OPTIONS	
DOWN PAYMENT	MONTHLY PAYMENT
\$0	\$308* tax
\$1500	\$271* tax
\$3200	\$230* tax

GEORGETOWN TOYOTA SALES

15 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. N., 877-2296 Tor. 874-4276

WEBSITE at www.haltonhills.com/toyota or E-MAIL at toyota@aztec-net.com

*Based on a 48 mos. walkaway lease. First payment & security deposit due on delivery. Based on 96,000 kms. Additional charge of \$0.07 if applicable on Toyota Corolla.