

Going the distance carries new weight for volleyball Mustangs

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Mustang senior boys volleyball team's road to recovery has been littered with obstacles.

Milton District High School, who won only a couple of times last fall, began training camp with disappointing numbers and nearly had to pull out when a few of those players were lured away to the football field.

To make matters worse, this season's revamped format for competition — that now has games going to 25 points instead of 15 and winners decided by best-of-five rather than best-of-three matches — is sure to put the local squad and others with smaller rosters at a disadvantage.

"Shortened benches can really hurt," said coach Jane McCollum, who has a mere nine players on her squad and just three returning veterans. "The guys do get tired when matches go long."

That was fairly evident during their home opener against Burlington's Nelson Lords Thursday.

MD took the first round 25-21 and held an early lead in game two — at which point fatigue slowly but surely started to set in. The 'Stangs had little chance of combating this, with fewer substitutes than their guests, and ended up dropping the next three contests 25-15, 25-23, 25-22.

The match — although more fast-paced than usual with points awarded during every rally now, compared to before when only the serving team could score — lasted nearly 90 minutes.

This is significantly longer than the typical show-down used to go under the old rules, which were recently changed at every level of the sport in order to boost its excitement level and popularity.

Added McCollum, "And we went only four games. A fifth would have made it another 15 to 20 minutes. Considering this and the fact we only had one practice within the last week, the guys did pretty well."

Led by Andrew Hryciw and Josh Murray, MD battled back gamely in rounds three and four — closing wide gaps and pushing the visitors to the limit with strong blocking.

Also, Hryciw delivered at least two dozen kills on the afternoon and was especially sharp on long rallies through the early stages of play.

The 'Stangs, who will be hard pressed to finish top six and grab a playoff spot in Halton Region's Richardson Division, host the Lester B. Pearson Patriots this afternoon. Game time is 3:45 p.m.

Club volleyball recruiting is on

Calling all boys volleyball players — the West Side Volleyball Club wants you.

Players between 13 and 19 years of age are welcome to try out for one of four competitive teams. Tryouts for the fall/winter season will be held over the next two weeks.

Bantam (1986-87) tryouts are set for October 5 and 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. at Brampton Centennial Secondary School and October 6 and 13 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Mississauga's Edenwood Senior Public School. Midget (1984-85) and Juvenile (1982-83) training sessions will run October 5, 12 and 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. at Mississauga's Rick Hansen Secondary School. The Junior team will be picked later on.

The tryout fee is \$10 and players are required to bring a birth certificate and health card.

Call Paul Reader at (519) 927-3376 or Beris Richardson at (905) 454-2254 for more information.

Badminton club starts in October

The Milton Leisure Centre holds badminton play Tuesday and Thursday evenings starting in October. Games — open to players of all skill levels — begin at 7:30 p.m. each night. Beginners are welcome to join. Call Dave Lindsay at 878-4575 or Terry Myers at 878-6500 (after 6 p.m.).



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Special thanks to all the parent volunteers, coaches, conveners and all the participants.

Watch for Baseball Registration next year for girls aged 5-15!!!!

Congratulations to: **NICOLE PEALOW** of Dufferin Aggregates (Player who sold the most tickets)
DARLENE SMITH winner of Raffle for 440 SQ INCH BARBEQUE



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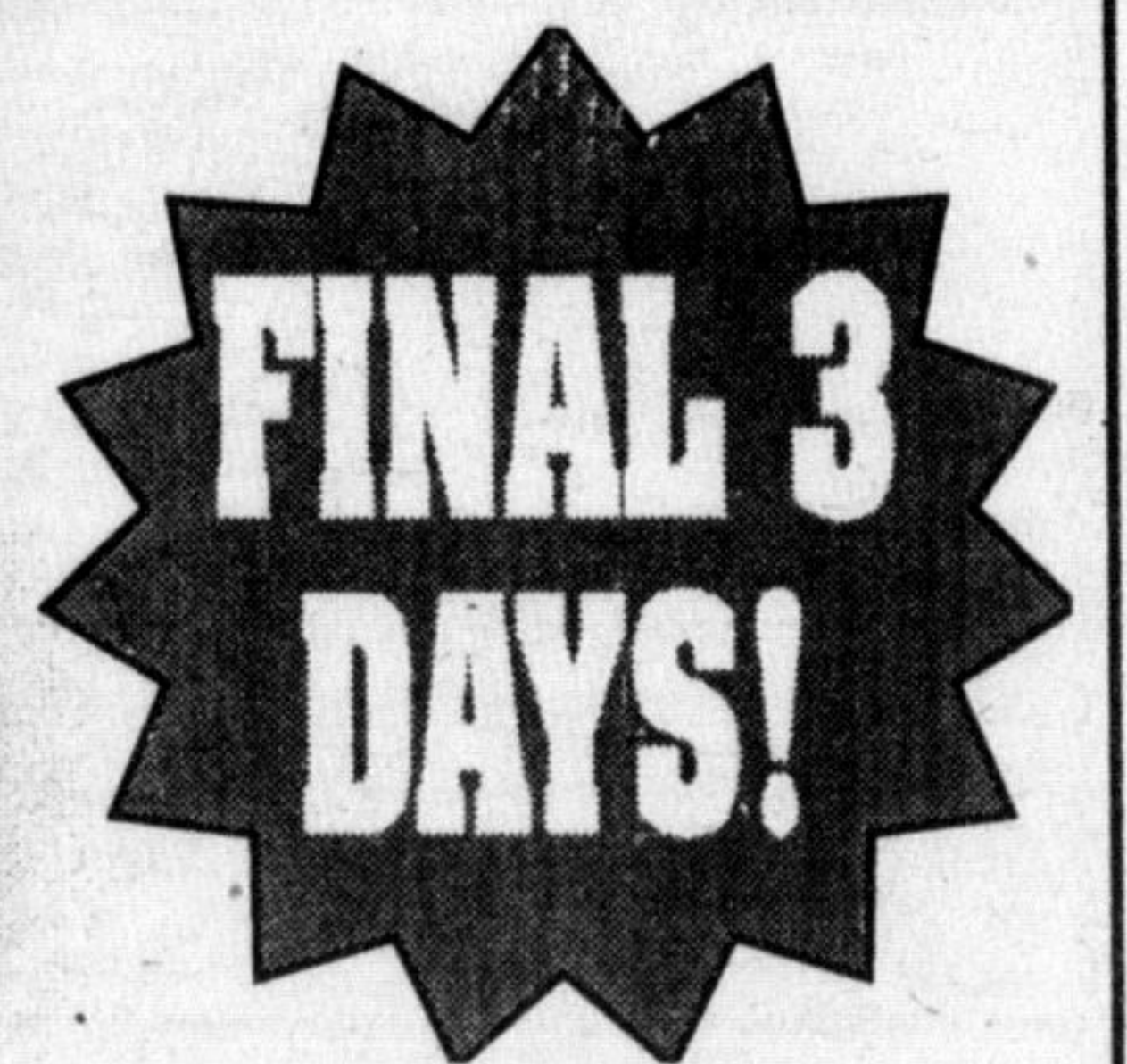
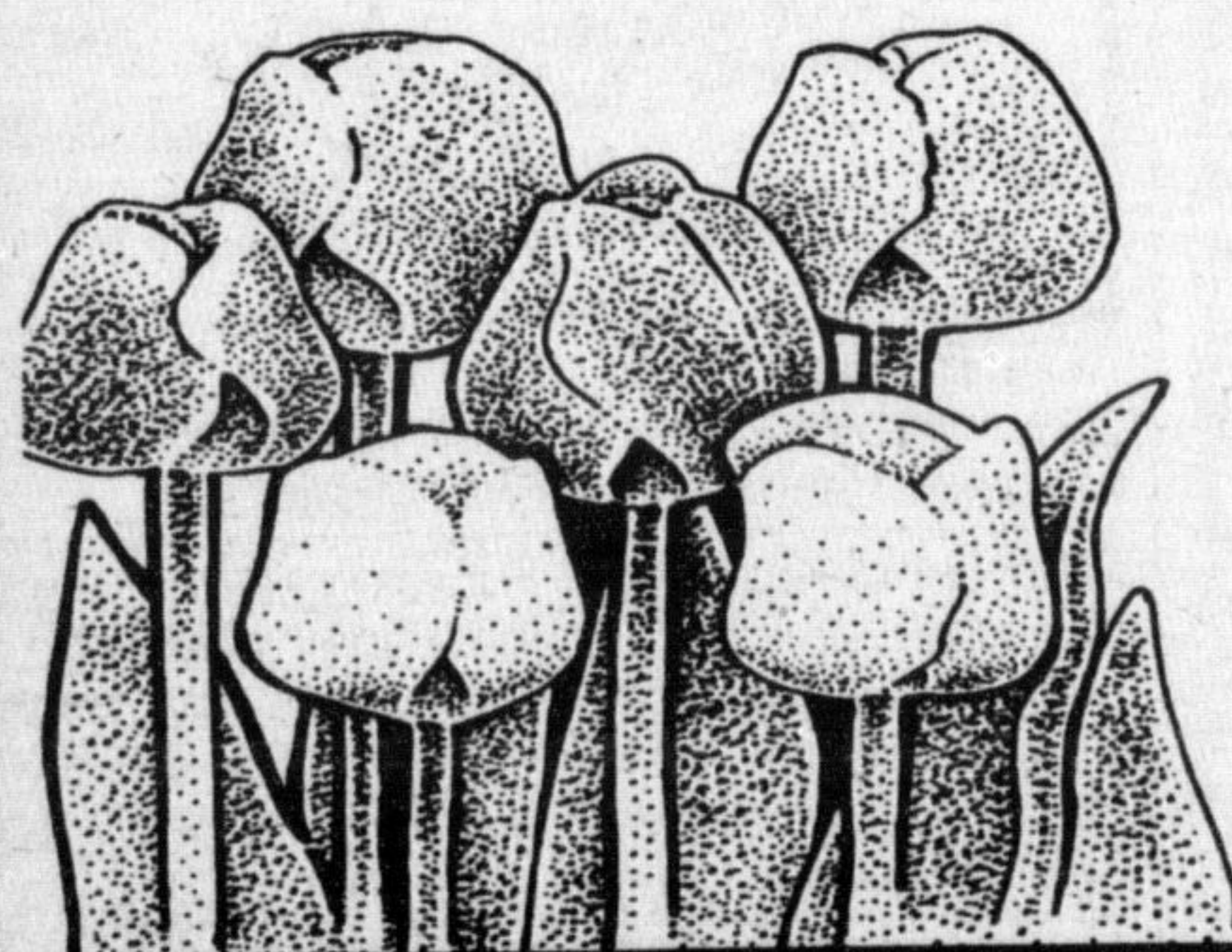


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