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Kickboxer shines down south

Petroff powers way to another title victory

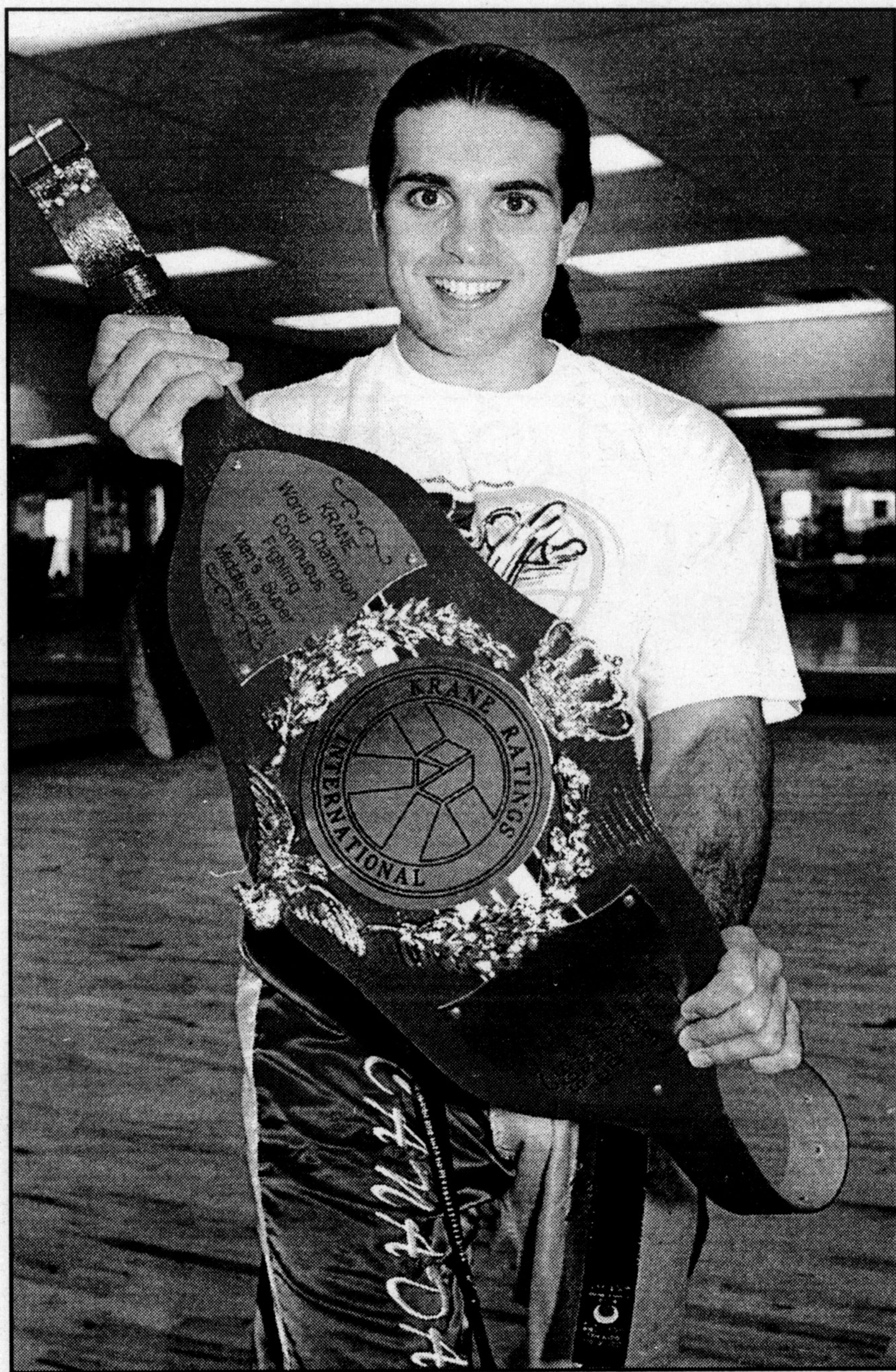


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Nick Petroff displays the championship belt he won in recent kickboxing competition.

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Disney World bills itself as the 'happiest place on earth'. In recent years it's also had the potential to be one of the most competitive, painful and rewarding — sometimes in that exact order.

At least it was for Milton's Nick Petroff recently.

The 27-year-old kickboxer — battling within the confines of Disney's state-of-the-art sports pavilion — captured top honours in the men's super middleweight, full contact class October 2.

Initially, Petroff found the popular tourist attraction a rather strange place to host such a volatile activity.

"Yeah, at first it seemed a little odd," said the champion competitor, "But they've also got basketball, football and hockey there which are all aggressive as well."

His U.S. title victory came over Orlando's Robert Taylor.

Petroff admits the hometown favourite was significantly strongest and taller than him. But when it came

time to attack, the bigger man's edge fell by the way.

"He tried to trade power with me, but I used a lot of head movement and was able to counter a lot of his strikes," recalled Petroff, who's sponsored by Milton's GoodLife Fitness Club, Cross Pen's and Oakville's Ontario Centre for Martial Arts. "It was definitely a tough match. I was either punching, kicking or countering the whole time. He got in some good punches early in the third (and final) round, but I came back hard and ended it strongly."

His American opponent was downed by a unanimous decision. Petroff was mildly disappointed over not capitalizing on late opportunities to gain the knockout — but otherwise, he was quite pleased with his showing.

He added, "I felt like I really rose to the occasion."

Petroff's recent triumph marks the second title he's won in six months. In May, he took the world light kickboxing title in his weight class and then spent the summer defending the belt in such places as South Africa.

Up next for the accomplished athlete is next spring's Canadian Championships.

Mustangs are red hot in icy cold quarterfinal showdown

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Mustangs stampeded their way into the final four Wednesday.

Milton District High School's junior football team — amid bone chilling winds offered by winter's initial blast — scored early and often in division two quarterfinal action en route to annihilating Burlington Central 27-0.

Winners of their last three games, two by lopsided shutouts, the local lads exploded early and were in complete control from start to finish in advancing to the semis.

"We moved the ball well on the ground," said head coach Vern O'Neil. "The offensive line did a great job and helped us get some big first downs. Overall, I was quite pleased with our performance."

As good as the hosts were with the ball, they were even better without it. The defense did an exceptional job reading the play and delivered a lot of pressure on the outside and during passes in the third quarter on the way to recording their second straight shutout.

Simon Brennan, Adam Dow and Justin Preece — who doubled as the kicker and converted three of

the four touchdowns — gave standout defensive efforts.

Again, Greg Van Es was the top carrier and ran for two majors, both of which were scored on lengthy rushes. It was the third consecutive game in which he came through with a pair of touchdowns.

Also reaching the end-zone were Aaron McCrimmon-Jones and Blair Pocock. Louis Delpratt made some nice gains as well to help round out the offensive onslaught.

Quarterback Ryan Page exhibited a great deal of poise in unfavorable weather conditions and implemented an effective mix of sweeps

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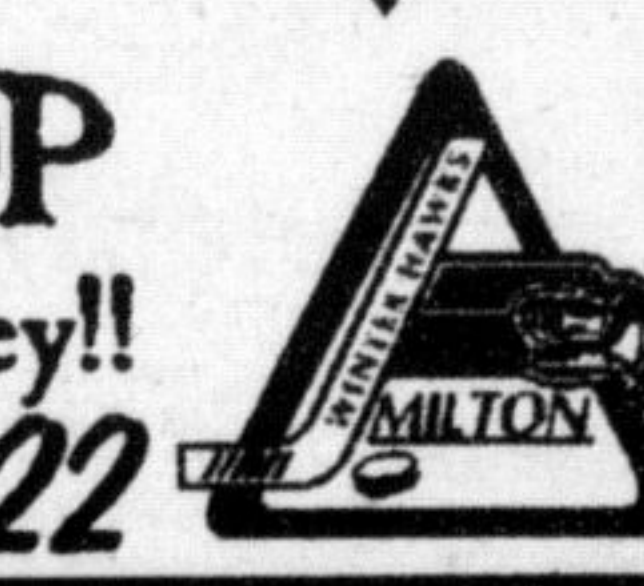


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