

# Mustang seniors break into win column, but coach disappointed

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Usually winning is met with a fair amount of joy. And if it's your first victory as head coach, a sense of relief is almost always quick to follow.

But Milton District High's Ed Stavnitzky — who took over the senior football program last fall — enjoyed neither upon finally breaking into the win column at Oakville's T.A. Blakelock High School Friday.

Instead, he expressed grave concern and disappointment over the handful of turnovers and several other mental miscues that marred MD's 14-6 division two triumph against the Tigers.

"It was just awful, we should have had four touchdowns in the opening half alone," said the longtime gridiron skipper, whose team evened its season record to 1-1.

"It's not a matter of being content with the score. If we're going to accomplish our goals this year we've got to eliminate our mistakes."

His Mustangs did in fact cut down on their defensive errors, although a whole new batch of problems came into play when they had the ball.

Topping the list were fumbles and sloppy snaps — one of which ruined a third-quarter punt attempt, affording the hosts excellent field position and ultimately their lone touchdown.

Added Stavnitzky, "Had our defense not played so well we could have easily lost the game."

Specifically, MD's bench boss pointed out, the team delivered stronger tackling and did a much better job of containing the sweep.

Standing out were nose guard Pieter Deetlefs — formerly of South Africa — and defensive end Sean Dale, who came up with an interception.

The Mustangs' two touchdowns were both scored in the first half.

Quarterback Mark Grimwood's lengthy pass to Ryan Groom set up a goal-line push by Greg Van Es while fellow rusher Louis Delpratt recorded the winning major.

MD didn't escape the afternoon clash completely unscathed.

Going down with a knee injury — possibly a torn ligament — was two-way lineman Dave Walker, who now joins number one pivot John Melito and star rusher Ian Robinson on the disabled list.

The local seniors will have an opportunity to rest up and figure out how to minimize their offensive errors with a week three bye. Their next game is at Burlington's Aldershot on Friday, October 13.

## Plague hits juniors

Milton District's football injury bug has now filtered down to the junior squad.

Thursday, they looked like the walking wounded by the end of home-opening play against the Burlington Central Trojans — who capitalized on the hosts' physical ailments to rally for a 20-7 win.

The Mustangs were hit hardest at quarterback. Starter Ryan Page went down with a possible concussion midway through the second quarter and while returning to finish out the half, he was quite woozy at intermission and was forced to leave the game.

Enter middle linebacker Matt MacLennan, whose time as second-string pivot was cut short by an elbow injury. From there, head coach Richard Grant — new to the school this year — closed out the game with Brandon Byers at the helm.

But by then team moral was low with so many injuries — to both the offensive and defensive line — and chances of coming back seemed non-existent anyway.

Receiver James MacIntosh scored the only touchdown of the first half, reaching the end-zone on a reverse from about a dozen yards out.

Providing solid efforts on the afternoon were inside linebacker/running back Lee Frittenburg and free safety Dave Greenland-Perry.

The Mustangs have a tentative home exhibition game slated for Thursday against a Catholic school from Toronto. Game time will be 3:30 p.m.

Their next league game is set for Thursday, October 12 at Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas High School.

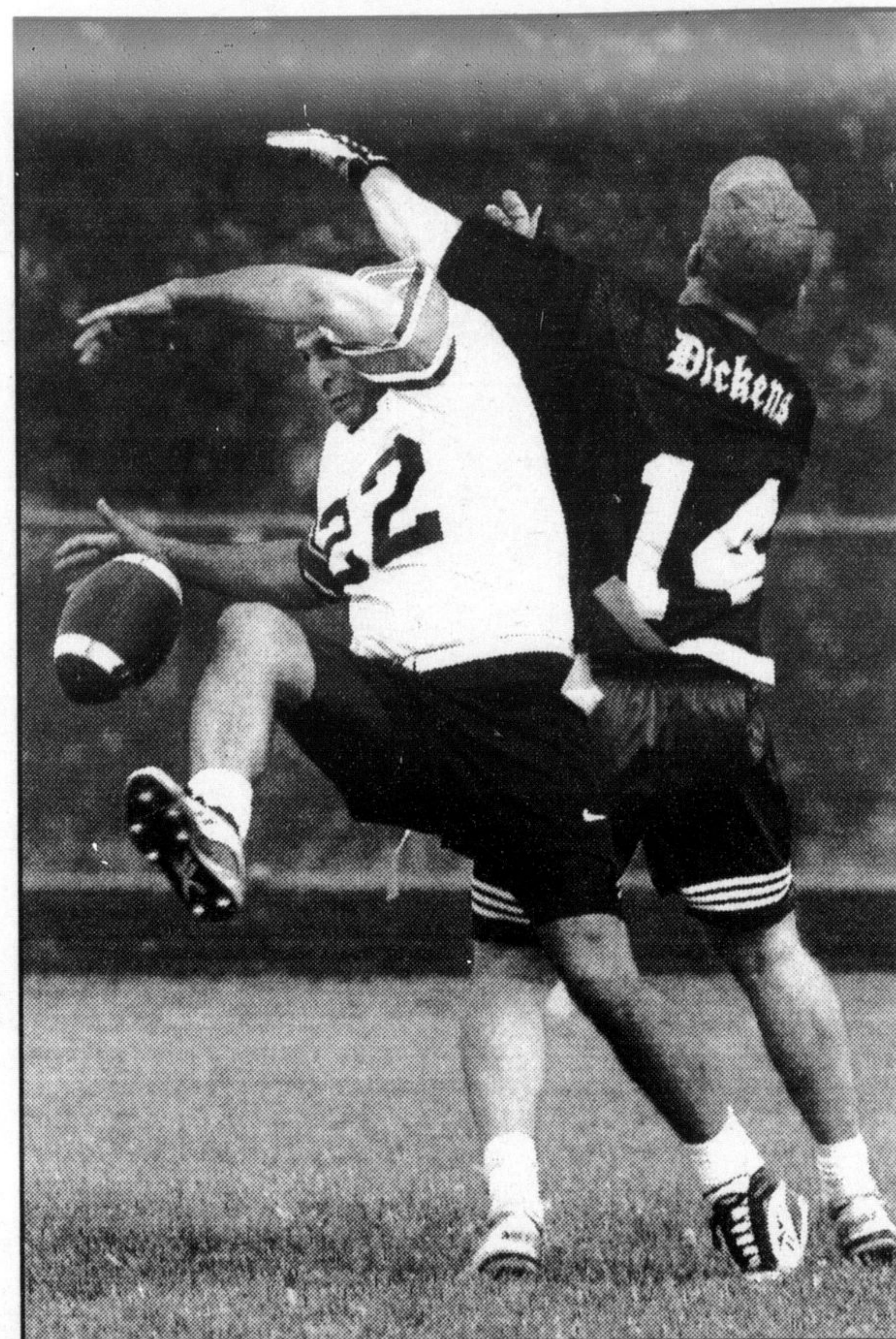


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## ✓Football folly

Hops'N'Malt's Jas Basra (22) couldn't quite come up with the ball on this pass attempt during Milton Flag Football League championship play against the Dickens at Milton District High School Sunday. Hops'N'Malt won the title for a third year in a row, downing The Dickens 42-19.



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