

# Senior 'Stangs win ugly to finish great regular season

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**  
Special to *The Champion*

You know it's bad when the public address announcer, James (The Foot) Ball, has the game's best performance.

You know it's bad when the cheerleaders have the second best performance.

You know it's good when the Milton District Mustangs senior football team are victorious, but are no longer satisfied with just winning.

Yes, the Mustangs defeated the lowly Lord Elgin Lancers 13-6 to improve their record to 4-2, but it was Coyote Ugly, and the team appeared to be only masquerading as the real Milton District squad, the one that has played so well in recent weeks.

"We won on the scoreboard, but lost today," said a disappointed head coach Ed Stavnitzky. He pointed to "four or five stupid penalties, bad tackling, and two guys playing and 10 guys standing around watching."

### Lots of shortcomings

He might have also mentioned a case of fumbleitis, poor execution on snaps, and dropped balls by receivers.

There was clearly a lack of concentration on the Mustangs' part. MD was coming off a big victory last week and might have expected to romp over the Lancers.

And the game didn't matter in the standings, as the team had secured third place and is set to play the sixth place Lancers again at home in the playoffs this coming Friday.

Stavnitzky blamed himself for the team's overconfidence. "I warned them, but somehow didn't do a good (enough) job of

communicating it."

"Football is 85 percent mental," continued Stavnitzky.

"We weren't mentally sharp today and it showed. If we don't come out and be mentally sharp next week, they'll take it away from us."

"Maybe it's a good thing," the coach thought out loud. "It could smarten us up for next week."

Indeed, there could be some positive shock value from the end of the game when Lord Elgin drove to the Milton District two-yard line with time running out and needing a touchdown to tie the game.

They were backed up five yards on an off-side penalty and then the Mustangs got a huge break when Blair Pocock recovered a fumble that allowed Milton District to run out the clock.

The Mustangs did, after all, win the game and looked good at times doing it. On one touchdown drive they started from their own four-yard line and drove the length of the field.

Kris Beal had a couple of good runs before quarterback Mark Grimwood connected on a perfect pass and reception to Ryan

Groom that went for 50 yards.

A quick strike to Louis Delpratt got them another 15 yards, and then Greg van Es took the ball into the end-zone. Ian Robinson was good on the extra point.

The other MD touchdown was also scored by van Es, which he set up himself with a big 24-yard run. He almost caught the two-point conversion as well on a broken extra point attempt.

### Meinen leads defense

On defense, Wayne Meinen looked as if he was putting together his latest Greatest Hits CD. Eric Liddon and Ken Drummond both made some big stops, especially on fourth down plays, and Rob Skinner recovered a Lord Elgin fumble.

Make no mistake about it, the Milton District Mustangs are a good team, and have a chance to win the Halton Division II championship. One of their prime attributes this season has been their ability to learn from their mistakes and to correct them. They'll have ample opportunity to do that in their first round playoff game this Friday. Game time is 2 p.m.

*Please fax your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943. Be sure to check out Friday's Champion for the latest on the Milton Merchants.*

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## REGISTRATION

**DATES:** THURS., NOV. 2nd (7:00 pm - 9:00 pm)  
 FRI., NOV. 3rd (7:00 pm - 9:00 pm)  
 SAT, NOV. 4th (1:00 pm - 4:00 pm)  
 SUN., NOV. 5th (1:00 pm - 3:00 pm)

**PLACE:** OAKVILLE ARENA

**COST:** \$189.00 + G.S.T. (EASY PAYMENT PLAN)

**SEASON:** MID APRIL TIL END OF JULY

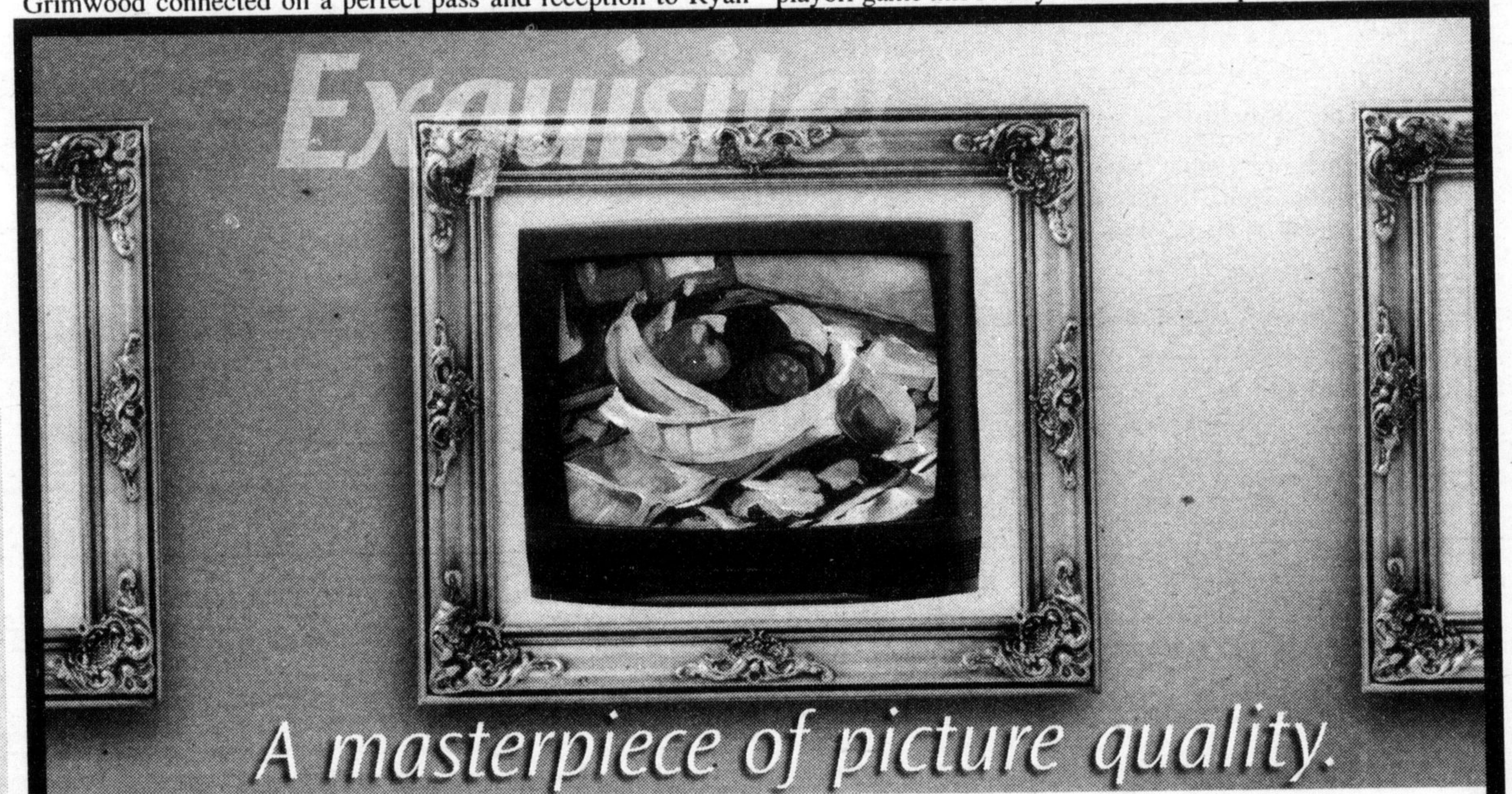
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