



# SPORTS



THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2000



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Taken for a ride

Winterhawk Greg Mountain upends his Arthur opponent during single A major novice play at Memorial Arena Saturday. Arthur would come out on top on the scoreboard, however, beating Milton 8-1.

## MD seniors advance to Halton semifinals

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

Who let the dogs out?

A barking, growling, teeth-baring Milton District senior football team thoroughly dominated Burlington's Lord Elgin Lancers in first round playoff action Friday afternoon, winning 28-0 before a large and enthusiastic home crowd.

A thesaurus would be needed to find enough superlatives to describe the team's effort, especially in light of their game the week before against the same Lord Elgin squad, in which they squeaked by with a 13-6 victory.

"We knew what we had to do," said quarterback Mark Grimwood, who played close to a flawless game. "We weren't happy with our performance last week."

The big difference, according to Grimwood? "Our defense really stepped it up. When the defense got those turnovers it helped get the offense going."

Grimwood was right on the money with almost every pass, including a 35-yard strike to Ryan Groom, a 20-yard connection over the middle to Ian Robinson, and first down completions to Mike Therriault and Louis Delpratt. Two other potential long-gainers went through fingertips or were called back by penalties.

### Explosive effort

The offensive star of the game, however, was Greg van Es, who had three touchdowns and was absolutely sensational running the football. He sent a message that he meant business on the very first play of the game he went outside for 30 yards. A couple plays later he took the ball in from 11-yards out. His second touchdown was from the six-yard line, and his third was a 36-yard carry on which the only thing that could have stopped him was a landmine. Maybe.

Wayne Meinen and Kris Beal also had outstanding rushing games, with Meinen doing the pounding up the middle and Beal breaking a number of runs for first downs. Robinson broke off a thrilling fifty-yard scamper into the end zone but it was called back by a penalty. All four of them fought and scratched for every single inch of territory, going around, over and through the Lord Elgin defenders.

Echoing Grimwood's comments, van Es said matter of factly, "We knew what we had to do and did it." He thought the biggest difference between the two games was simply, "execution," and denied have a personal built-in homing device for the end zone.

He also plays defense, which had an amazing game. "We changed a lot of the defense around to match their plays," suggested van Es, but it was considerably more than that. They were pumped, almost during the Lancers to try and gain ground against them, which didn't happen very often. Their energy level could be appreciated even on the sidelines where many of their hits were so hard the spectators could feel them. Lord Elgin came nowhere near threatening to score and even gaining any yardage at all was probably a moral victory for them.

### Dynamite defense

Meinen played his usual dominating game, and Pieter Deetlefs stepped up and contributed an excellent performance with a lot of big tackles.

On a big fourth down and less than a yard play, Rob Skinner brought down a runner behind the line of scrimmage and had an outstanding game overall.

The Lancers had a couple of fumbles, each one forced by big hits by defensive players. Eric Liddon smashed one ball carrier into the next time zone to allow Josh Suter to recover the resulting fumble, and on another Sean Dale did the exact same thing to allow Deetlefs to fall on the free ball.

The secondary rarely allowed a completed pass beyond the line of scrimmage. Jeff MacLeod was the Lancers leading receiver and he plays for the Mustangs.

He had two interceptions on the day. Suter and Bren Silk also turned in excellent performances.

Special teams made some big plays and the offensive line must have played well, too, because typically they never get noticed unless they mess up.

"We came out and played like we can," said coach, Ed Stavitzky, using the words, "intense" and "focused."

Yet he wasn't quite so quick to award the team the Halton championship. He was concerned about mistakes that would hurt them a lot more against the better teams. The noticeable shortcoming was in the penalties department where flags were flying more often than on Canada Day.

He thought nerves might have also been an issue, referring to the penalties and perhaps some of the dropped passes, noting that one of the team's goals was to "overall have the emotional security to do what we want to do."

The Mustangs are at Burlington Central this Friday for the Division II semi-finals. Game time is 2 p.m.

## Merchants destroy Oakville

**By STEVE LeBLANC***The Champion*

Blowout victories are quickly becoming a thing of the past in the Ontario Provincial Jr. A League's West Conference.

But Friday night at Memorial Arena, Glen Walsh's Merchants turned back the clock and reminded fans just how dominating they can be.

Fueled by an overall gritty performance and four-goal attack from returning sparkplug Elliott Altberg, Milton ran their current unbeaten streak to three by bombing the Oakville Blades 9-3.

This marked only the fifth division game this year with a goal differential of more than four.

Now granted the lopsided win was against the basement dwellers — but in this new era of parity, no team can be taken lightly. Fortunately, that point wasn't lost on the Merchants Friday.

Continuing to step up their intensity and physical play, the hosts were strong in the neutral zone and in the corners all night and didn't ease up until well into the final frame when a comeback — or for that matter even a close finish — was simply out of the question.

The Merchants' blueline unit — which remains depleted but is still showing a lot of durability — held the visitors to just nine shots in the first two periods and 22 overall. Rick Janco's return from

injury plus a robust effort from his fellow defence-man combined to hold the Blades at bay through most of the evening.

Meanwhile, Joel Cameron lost his shutout seven minutes into the third when a lengthy floater by Geoff Curtis caught him going the other way. After that he was beat twice more, each time by Chris Petherick.

Surprisingly enough with the game out of reach, third-period play did not deteriorate into a slugfest. The only fisticuffs battle involved James Coleman, who's taken on the mantle of both most improved player and team enforcer, and Oakville counterpart Ryan Berlingieri.

Finally discovering his scoring touch — after finding the back of the net only once in 10 games — Altberg scored five minutes into the contest and finished his scoring surge with about five minutes left to establish a new single-game scoring record this year for Milton.

Team points leader Andy Rozak also put his stamp on the game with a goal and four assists while Flavio Fagionni scored once and added two helpers. The Merchants' other marksmen were Scott Malcolm, Shane Remenda and newcomer Ryan DelMonte — whose added grit up front.

Now sitting second with a record of 11-4-3, Milton hosts Streetsville Friday.

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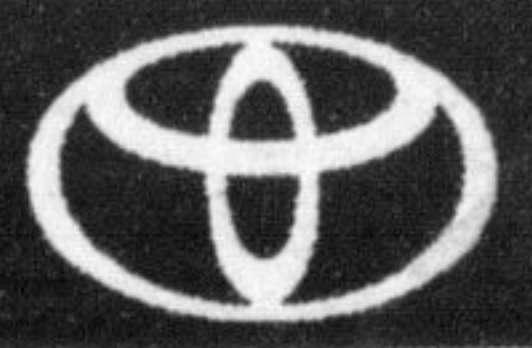
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