

# EC upstages 'Stangs

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Cross-town clashes between local high schools always come complete with added anticipation.

And occasionally the ensuing battle manages to live up to the hype. Unfortunately, Tuesday's Milton District-E.C. Drury regular season opening hockey tilt didn't fall into the category.

The rusty Mustangs — whose pre-season campaign was stunted because of a prolonged senior football playoff run — and equally unfocused Spartans delivered a largely lacklustre performance in front of an impressive student fan base of roughly 100.

E.C. Drury scored three unanswered goals over the latter half of the afternoon encounter and prevailed 4-1. Chris Wasilkowsky turned back 12 of 13 shots for the win — which upped their overall

record, including three exhibition contests, to 2-2.

By contrast, the 'Stangs had not seen any competition before Tuesday. Their lone tally came halfway through the opening frame on an upstairs rebound deposit by defensive anchor Kris Beal.

Shawn McConnell assisted on the play while helping keep things close with a solid period-and-a-half of netminding was Kevin Duggan.

Spartan Sean Walsh recorded the game winning goal on the powerplay about eight minutes into the middle stanza — sinking a blueline floater that found its way through numerous legs and past Duggan.

From there, Mike Austen and Evan Jeans added third-period insurance markers — Austen's on a wide-angle wrister and Jeans' on a great solo effort capped by an upstairs backhand.

Drury's other marksmen was Matt Yorke.

# Bettor's Delight wins again

Bettor's Delight capped off Garden State Park's richest night of harness racing in 14 years by recording a half-length victory over arch-rival Real Desire in the \$545,300 Governor's Cup Pace Saturday in New Jersey.

Four stakes races were worth a combined \$1,866,700. "Delight" — son of Cam's Card Shark, owned by Hornby's John Grant and trained by Scott McEneny — won in 1:52.2. It's the sixth win in 10 career starts for the victorious colt. He's also won \$804,661 lifetime.

Chicagoan Eric Ledford was in the sulky as the sharp-stepping colt turned in a 1:52.2 mile to finish ahead of Real Desire in what proved to be a classic battle between the top two entries in their division.

The win was the second straight for Bettor's Delight over Real Desire — the first was at the Breeders Crown at Mohawk — and quite possible clinched the two-year-old pacing crown for him. Real Desire, who entered the Governor's Cup with eight victories in nine starts, has never lost to any other horse.

Ledford's decision to shoot Bettor's Delight to the lead as quickly as possible was a key factor in the outcome.

"I left primarily because I knew Trevor (Ritchie, driver of Real Desire) was going to leave and there was no way I was going to be first over behind him," he said. "Being on the front end worked out well for us."

Bettor's Delight grabbed the lead from the gate, controlled the pace and never was headed. He was timed at :56.4 for the half mile and 1:25.3 at the three-quarters mark.

Real Desire had a tougher time of it. From post position eight, he was fourth from the gate and then got parked out approaching the quarter mile mark. Ritchie managed to rally him within a length of Bettor's Delight early in the stretch and the two marched together to the wire. Lotsa Clout finished third.

The triumph was Bettor's Delight's sixth in 10 starts. He earned \$272,650 for Grant.

# Strong start for Marlins

James Bramely sure knows how to make a first impression.

The Milton Marlin delivered a starring role recently with five medal-winning efforts during season-opening competition in Oakville.

The 10-year-old's best efforts were reserved for the 100 metre backstroke, which he won. The pre-teen swimmer also struck silver in the 200m backstroke and 200m freestyle and claimed bronze in both the 100m freestyle and 200m individual medley. He also finished fourth in the 100m butterfly.

Age class teammate Silas Sham took eighth and 12th place finishes respectively in the 50m backstroke and 100m freestyle.

Eight-year-old David Dimitrov swam to a second-place effort in the 50m butterfly

and placed top 10 in three other events, while taking top 15 in a handful of races was age class teammate Evan Ries.

The foursome pooled their effort to take third spot in the 200m freestyle relay.

Meanwhile, it was 10-year-old Victoria Poole leading the way for the girls with a golden performance in the 100m butterfly and top five placing in the rest of her events.

Laura Doherty, 10, was second in both the 100 and 200m breaststroke and third in the 100m backstroke. Ten-year-old Caroline Shaw grabbed third place in the 50m backstroke while nine-year-old Gillian Arseneau was right behind her for fourth. The girls collected took second in both the 200m freestyle relay and 200m medley relay.

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