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# Milton fencer carves up his Ontario circuit competition

Willson finishes second in provincial finals in epee class

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

You had better be en garde when Stephen Willson is around.

That's because the Milton fencer is ranked among the best in Ontario in the epee category.

He recently finished second in the Ontario Circuit Challenge finals in St. Catharines, which will place him third or fourth overall in the province when the final points are calculated.

Earlier in the season, he had another second place finish, along with a first in Waterloo.

As well, he has a national ranking from competing on the national circuit, and recently competed at a World Cup competition in Montreal where he had his best career finish.

Willson got his start in fencing in a rather unusual manner. He was waiting for a bus at Brock University with a friend who asked him if he wanted to try out for the fencing team.

Willson sort of shrugged and thought, what the heck. He showed up at the tryout, his friend didn't, and Willson not only made the team, but went to the OUAA finals his first season.

What transpired sort of understates his involvement

in the sport: "I kind of got hooked on it."

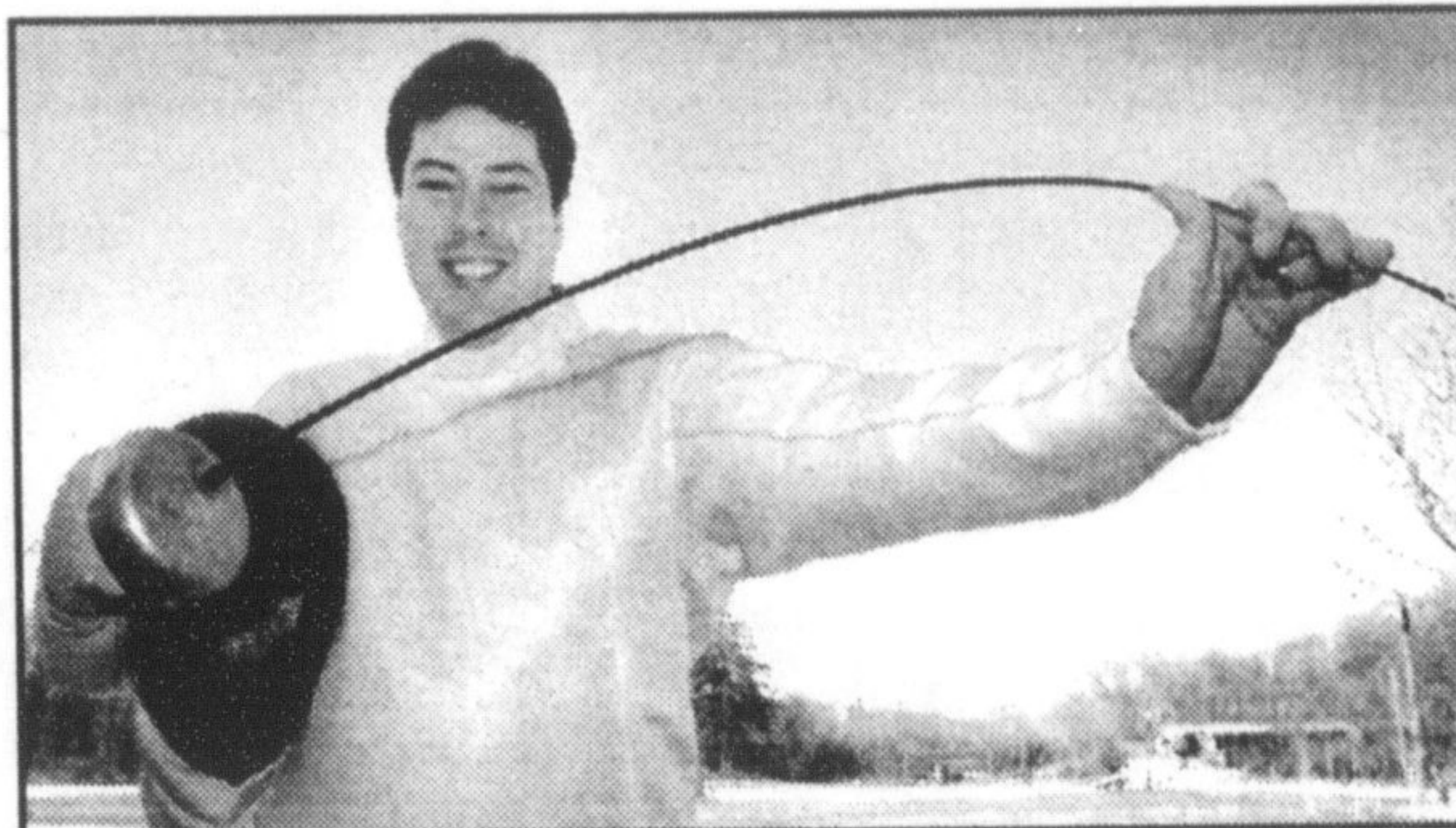
Willson is 30-years-old, which for fencing is young. "The older you get, the better you get. You peak at an older age," he explained.

"They call fencing, physical chess. Now that I'm older, I spend more time looking for my opponent's weaknesses and trying to capitalize on it."

He admits when he was younger, he was more recklessly aggressive — which tends not to work in this sport.

He remembers one opponent who was about 70-years-old, who "cleaned my clock" when he was first starting out.

Willson fences out of an Oakville club, but also works out in Georgetown under coach Emil Dimitrov — who is involved in training swimmers as well as



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Stephen Willson took runner-up status on provincial circuit this season in epee class fencing.

pentathlon athletes.

Already this year, he's achieved one of his goals, finishing in the top two in the Ontario Circuit Challenge finals, and his next goal is to try and get into the top 30 nationally.

He is working on improving his speed and strategy, and adding more hits to his repertoire.

Willson has noticed a renewed interest in the sport, and sees a lot of kids starting to become more involved. He's hoping within the next year or so to open up a club in Milton along with Dimitrov.

# Juveniles' championship win mired by ugly effort

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

Milton's AA juveniles delivered a league championship series sweep at Memorial Arena Monday.

On the downside, it was accompanied by a performance that most in attendance would rather just sweep under the proverbial rug.

The game three clash was riddled with disgraceful actions — as the Winterhawks and opposing Newmarket Redmen spent much of the evening settling scores and very little of it actually playing hockey.

A short stint of the latter came in the opening nine minutes, when the hosts lit the lamp three times. They eventually won the contest 4-1.

But the title victory was — to say the very least — mired by an embarrassing third period, that was prematurely ended by mutually frustrated officials and coaches.

Milton didn't even get the chance to parade the trophy in front of fans and family, since both teams were ushered off the ice before things could escalate to the point of no control.

Netminder Chris Kovachik's 20-save showing was about the only bright spot on the night. While largely untested down the stretch, he did make a few key stops early on before the skirmishes started mounting.

Jeff Mitchell potted the first and final goals. Assisting on each were captain Jordan Jeans and Derek Mewhinney — who sank the game winner with a doorstep deflection nine minutes into the contest.

Also denting the twine — on a short-handed upstairs rocket — was Paul Faggion. Meanwhile, Ricky Nadalin drew a pair of helpers.

The Winterhawks scored four times in each game of the York/Simcoe championship series, which for the most part held little interest for either side.

# Tykes in tough at tournament

Milton's tykes kicked off tournament play in high gear last weekend.

But cruising to victory in rounds two and three just wasn't in the cards, as the local rink rats dropped a couple of hard-fought decisions and were bounced from playoff contention.

The Sandstone Transport Winterhawks' lone win came against the host Pelham Selects. Milton tallied twice down the stretch to prevail 4-2. Sean McGovern and Mark McKelvie each had a goal and an

assist, while also burying the biscuit were Nicholas Creamer and Bryden Curran.

The 'Hawks were then blanked by Woodstock 5-0 and outdistanced by Niagara-on-the-Lake 5-3.

McGovern capitalized on a penalty shot in the round-robin finale and helped set up a third-period marker by Matthew Dupont.

Milton's other scorer was Derek Dercatch, who also had a single assist in games one and three. Between the pipes for all three contests was Daniel Plater.

March 31

## Lacrosse Skills Clinic

Milton Leisure Center

Time

Ages 4-10 2 p.m.

Ages 11 & Up 3 p.m.

Bring Stick, Gloves & Helmet

LATE REGISTRATION

Thompson Arena-Lions Hall

March 31/01, 8am - 8pm

Please bring a copy of birth certificate



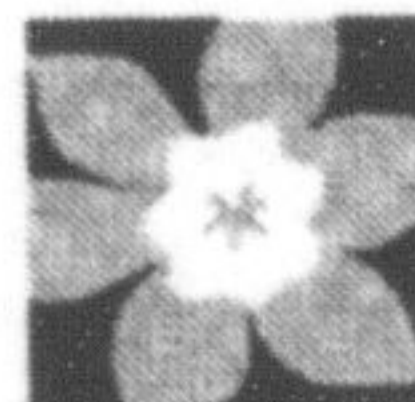
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