



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY, MAY 11, 2001



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## MILTON DISTRICT HIGH SCHOOL



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Members of the Milton District High School cheerleading squad celebrate their silver-medal performance at the provincials, which were held last weekend at Toronto's York

University. The second-place finish marked their best-ever showing at the Ontario Championships.

# MD cheerleaders secure silver at provincials

By **STEVE LeBLANC***The Champion*

Milton District High once again has something to cheer about.

That's because the school's cheerleading squad has punctuated a comeback season with its best ever provincial performance — finishing second last weekend at York University.

Matching 1998's silver-medal effort, the team outshone more than three dozen other schools to finish runner-up to Oakville's T.A. Blakelock Tigers by a scant five points.

The Mustangs sat third after opening-round competition Saturday before sling-shoting past London's Saunders High the following day, thanks to improved execution of their three-minute routine — which included tricky one-handed lifts and three dou-

ble twists.

"We were just perfect the second day," said co-captain Jenn Wallace, whose team finished a disappointing 10th at provincials last spring. "There were no wobbles or anything. All the little things went just right."

### More difficult routine does the trick

Co-captain Shawna Turner stressed that a more technically challenging routine compared to most of the field is what set MD and Blakelock apart.

She added, "On day two we performed just before they (Saunders) did and I think seeing us back-to-back the judges could really tell just how much more difficult our routine was."

MD's 21-member contingent continually improved as the season progressed, capturing bronze at the Halton Championships

and then securing silver at the Central West Regionals.

"We didn't have a very strong performance at Haltons. Our stunts were coming down and we just didn't execute that well," recalled Wallace. "We got so much better as the year wore on."

And with the majority of the squad returning to the fold next year, there's no reason to believe that improvement won't continue. Suggested Turner, "Next year's team should rock."

Andy Cecchini coached this season's squad alongside former team members Meredith Craigie and Amy Newell.

Making up the rest of the team were Victoria Crosby, Christine Chadwick, Jenn Drewlo, Caylin Dribbler, Sam Kindree, Val Massels, Natalie McMillan, Tegan Miller, Katherine Moir, Kristine Morrow, Sally Nichols, Katie O'Reilly, Lindsey Richardson, Alisha Robinson, Brittany Roskam, Katherine Russell, Kayla Scott, Jenny Smith and Sabine Stroham.

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