

Mustangs set to host pre-season football tourney

Local gridiron action will begin a little early this year.

Friday, Milton District High School's senior football team hosts its inaugural North Halton Classic controlled scrimmage showcase from 1 to 4 p.m.

The afternoon competition — which serves as a prelude to regular season play — is tentatively expected to include half-a-dozen teams. Joining Halton's Milton District, Bishop Reding, Q.E. Park and Loyola are the Quinte Saints and Centennial Chargers — who won last year's National Capital Bowl. The hosts were still awaiting word on a Peel Region school's involvement at press time yesterday.

The pre-season event is part of ongoing efforts to revitalize MD's football program. Phase one involved a training camp this past spring which included former Toronto Argonaut offensive line coach Ray Zaremba — who at the time was working at the school as a physical education supply teacher.

This was followed by summer workout sessions, so the Mustangs should be in pretty decent shape — or at least better than in previous years — for competition Friday.

Ed Stavitzky will be stepping down as head coach of MD's senior squad this year to devote more time to his young family. Reclaiming the bench boss post after a two-year hiatus is Keith Pearce. Assisting him will be Dave Curk, Keith Swarbrick and former player Andrew Todd.

Meanwhile, Joe Jurus will once again lead the Bishop Reding Royals — who captured Halton's Tier 1 title last fall with a shutout victory over Loyola.

Both teams start regular season play next Friday, although their opening round opponents were not known at press time yesterday. BR will probably remain in Tier 1 while the Mustangs will mostly likely be Tier 2.

Wild card wins Grass Roots event

By SANDRA SNYDER
Special to The Champion

Gold Series regular Abbey Road C made the most of the Grass Roots wild card at Flamboro Downs Wednesday, taking home the lion's share of the \$17,608 purse with a 2:01 score in the fourth of five divisions.

The two-year-old trotter and trainer-driver Keith Jones went on the attack early in the race and by the time the colts turned for home the Incredible Abe son had an insurmountable eight-length lead. By the time Abbey Road C hit the wire, he and Jones were nine and three-quarter lengths ahead of Armani Seelster with Jetset Matt 12 lengths back in third.

George Charlton of Utopia owns Abbey Road C, a two-time Gold Elimination winner. The gelding boosted his record to three wins and one third in seven starts for total earnings of \$58,328 — a tidy return on the \$11,000 Charlton spent to acquire the trotter at last fall's Royal Blue Yearling Sale.

Mr. Lavec son Armbr Whiplash scored a second consecutive Grass Roots victory in the sixth race for David MacDonald of Cornwall, David Reid of Kingston, Stan Klemencic of Trenton and Greg Judson of Athens, stopping the clock in 2:02.4, while the other three divisions went to sons of top trotting sire Balanced Image.

The progeny of Balanced Image, who stands at Campbellville's Glegate Farms, have earned more than those of any other trotting sire in North America and Electrical Image, Cyclone Artie and Armbr Warden contributed more than \$26,000 to the cause on Wednesday.

Cyclone Artie was the quickest of the three Balanced Image sons, stopping the clock in 2:01.2 for owner-trainer Harold Lunde of Campbellville. Trevor Ritchie piloted Cyclone Artie to the narrow victory over Acolyte Mor and Kimmirut, making a tidy deposit against the colt's \$20,000 purchase price in just his second lifetime start.

Ancaster's Robert Waxman made another appearance in the Flamboro Downs winner's circle when Electrical Image opened the Grass Roots program with a 2:03.3 score in the second race. It was the second straight win over the Flamboro Downs half mile for the colt — a \$100,000 yearling purchase. House Arrest and Earls Song rounded out the top three.

Savvy Flamboro fans improved their record to four out of five

accurate selections in the Grass Roots divisions when Armbr Warden and John Bax hit the wire on top in the 10th race. The duo went straight to the front from post five and never faced a legitimate challenge from the field of nine, coming home in a leisurely 2:02 — ahead of Ryan Hall and E.B. Hamer.

Parkhill Stud Farm of Peterborough, Brian Parkinson of Sharon, Kenneth James of Acton and Aline James of Lindsay own the young trotter, who has recorded two wins and one third in six starts this season for earnings of \$18,926.

The partners acquired Armbr Warden from the Forest City Sale last fall for \$44,000.

The Grass Roots two-year-old trotting colts head for Kawartha Downs on Sept. 27 for their second last event, while the Gold Series youngsters move on to Mohawk Racetrack on Sept. 25 for their second last Gold Eliminations.

Ontario Sires Stakes action does not return to Flamboro Downs until Oct. 17 when the three-year-old pacing fillies will wrap up their Grass Roots season over the Dundas oval.

Buck places 13th at Vancouver Indy

Robin Buck's cross-province racing efforts didn't exactly go according to plan this season.

The Campbellville CASCAR veteran reclaimed his title at the Toronto Molson Indy July 14 — but wasn't anywhere near as successful during two subsequent events outside Ontario.

He placed 16th at the Grand Prix De Trois Rivières in Trois Rivières, Quebec August 4 and didn't fare much better at the Vancouver Molson Indy September 1 — finishing 13th. Taking the checkered flag out west was Barrie's Al Turner, who outdistanced Kevin Dowler of Edmonton.

Buck's UAP/NAPA Grand Prix racing team — which continues to have strong ties to his old stomping ground of Oakville — competed in just four races this year.



HOME OPENER

FRIDAY, SEPT. 14

7:30 P.M. - MEMORIAL ARENA

Milton Merchants vs Burlington Cougars

Bring the whole family out for a great night of fun & excitement!!

**LOTS OF PRIZES
TO BE WON!**
Including

- Leaf Platinum Tickets • Blue Jays Tickets
- Merchant Jersey signed by Darcy Tucker and Shane Corson
- Panasonic Personal CD Player
- Autographed NHL Memorabilia & more!

TICKET PRICES

Adults	\$7.00
Seniors/Students	\$5.00
Children 12 & under	\$3.00
Family Pass	\$18.00
(2 adults & 2 children)	

To celebrate the opening game we have some special guests including
RICK VAIVE - former Toronto Maple Leaf All Star dropping the puck.
DIANE CLEMONS - singing the National Anthem (wife of "pinball Clemons")

CALL THE MERCHANTS OFFICE FOR SEASON TICKETS 905-673-3337