



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21, 2001

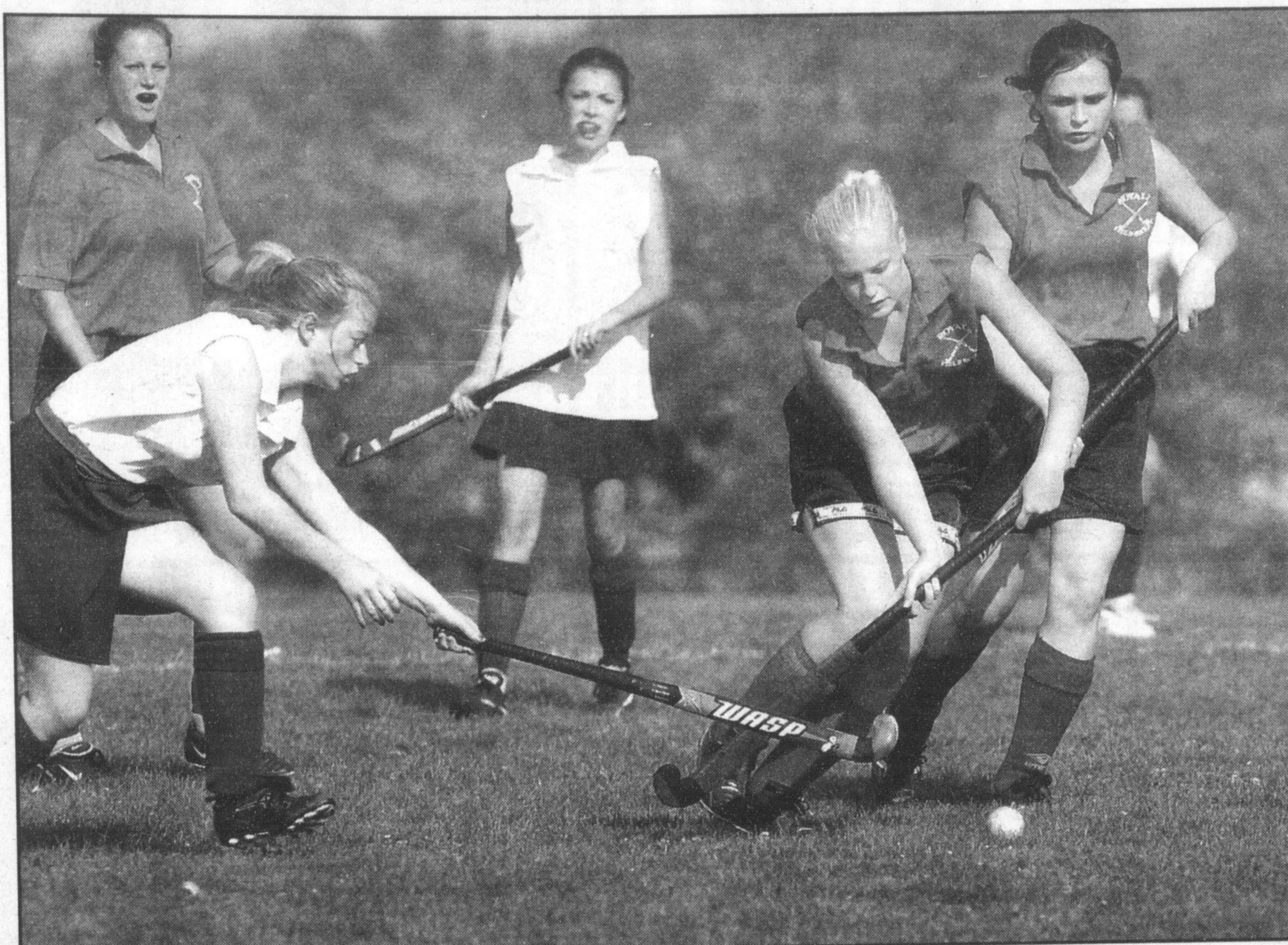


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Stickin' it to the opposition

Bishop Reding's Edyn Marshall charges past an Iroquois Ridge opponent during senior girls field hockey action Monday. BR won the season-opening contest 1-0, thanks to feisty team play and a first-half goal by Bridget Rowe. Sinead Irvine delivered the shutout.

Merchants edge feisty Lightning

By **STEVE LeBLANC***The Champion*

The Merchants' first road trip of the season was both surprising and successful.

On the way to Buffalo Monday, Milton enjoyed a rather quick border crossing — which was certainly unexpected in light of beefed up security spawn from last week's terrorist attacks — and then capped the night by outlasting the feisty Lightning 4-3.

Dan Bognar scored two powerplay goals down the stretch, including the game winner on a short-range rebound early in the third period. From there, he helped plug the gap on defense left by veteran Chris Krieg — who went down with a torn MCL during a nasty knee-on-knee collision in the opening frame.

"Dan was every bit as good on the blueline as he was up front. He was really invaluable," said general manager Nick Slawson. "Overall I think we were a little more prepared (than for the home opener Friday). We gave a reasonably complete-game effort."

For the second straight game, the defending West Conference champions' victory was fueled by a 3-for-7 powerplay.

In addition to the two markers by Bognar, David Ovcjak scored with the man-advantage to continue building on a solid exhibition campaign.

Former Georgetown Raider Brandon Valente netted his new team's only even-strength goal early in middle stanza. Michel Bond assisted on the first and final deposits.

Trevor Battaglia turned back nearly two dozen shots for the win.

Defenceman Matt Bartlett missed Monday's game while his Jr. A rights were being disputed by the Trenton Sting. Slawson expected the matter to be resolved by tonight — when the Merchants begin a three-games-in-as-many-days stretch at home against Brampton.

Tomorrow they're in Georgetown for a 7:30 p.m. start while Sunday at 9:30 a.m. they do battle with Markham in College Weekend play at Mississauga's Iceland Arena.

Magic Over-25 women capture league championship

The Milton Magic Over-25 women's soccer squad punctuated its strong season with a huge exclamation mark last weekend at Etobicoke's Centennial Park.

Fortifying their efforts for league championship play, the local ladies reigned supreme — capturing gold with an inspiring mix of dominance and drama.

The latter was offered through the tail-end of the tournament, particularly in the title match Sunday. Looking to avenge a third-round loss to the Dixie Aces, Milton battled to scoreless stale-

mates through both regulation play and overtime before taking the shoot-out 3-2.

Marlene Wilson stood tall between the pipes — as she did all weekend long — while deposits for the winning side came from Patti Cunning, Heather Munro and Joanne Parsons.

Munro shared the spotlight in semifinal play as well, sinking the lone marker to dispose of the top-seated defending champion Dixie Strikers 1-0. Wilson made some dynamite saves while providing her with effective defense were sweeper Helene Gadoury, Jackie Kohl, Silvia Linder and

Judy Terpstra.

Jodi Hayami gave a thoroughly impressive performance in midfield, completely neutralizing her opponents' ace striker.

Despite their third-round loss, the Magic assured themselves a semifinal berth by knocking off opponents one and two in convincing fashion.

First to fall by a 4-1 count was Clarkson. Cunning tallied twice to lead the attack while singles were chipped in by Munro and Claire O'Sullivan.

Then Cunning delivered her second straight two-goal effort to pace the local ladies past the High Park Amazons 3-1. Milton's other goal in game two came from Jani Gendron.

The Magic's tournament victory followed a fourth-place finish during regular season play. Allan Hobbs coached the championship team that also included Kendel Bradford, Carol Horbasz, Caroline Lingard, Susan Morris, Joanna Nadalin and Chris O'Callaghan.

Also part of the league this season were the first-year entry Milton Crouching Tigers..

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