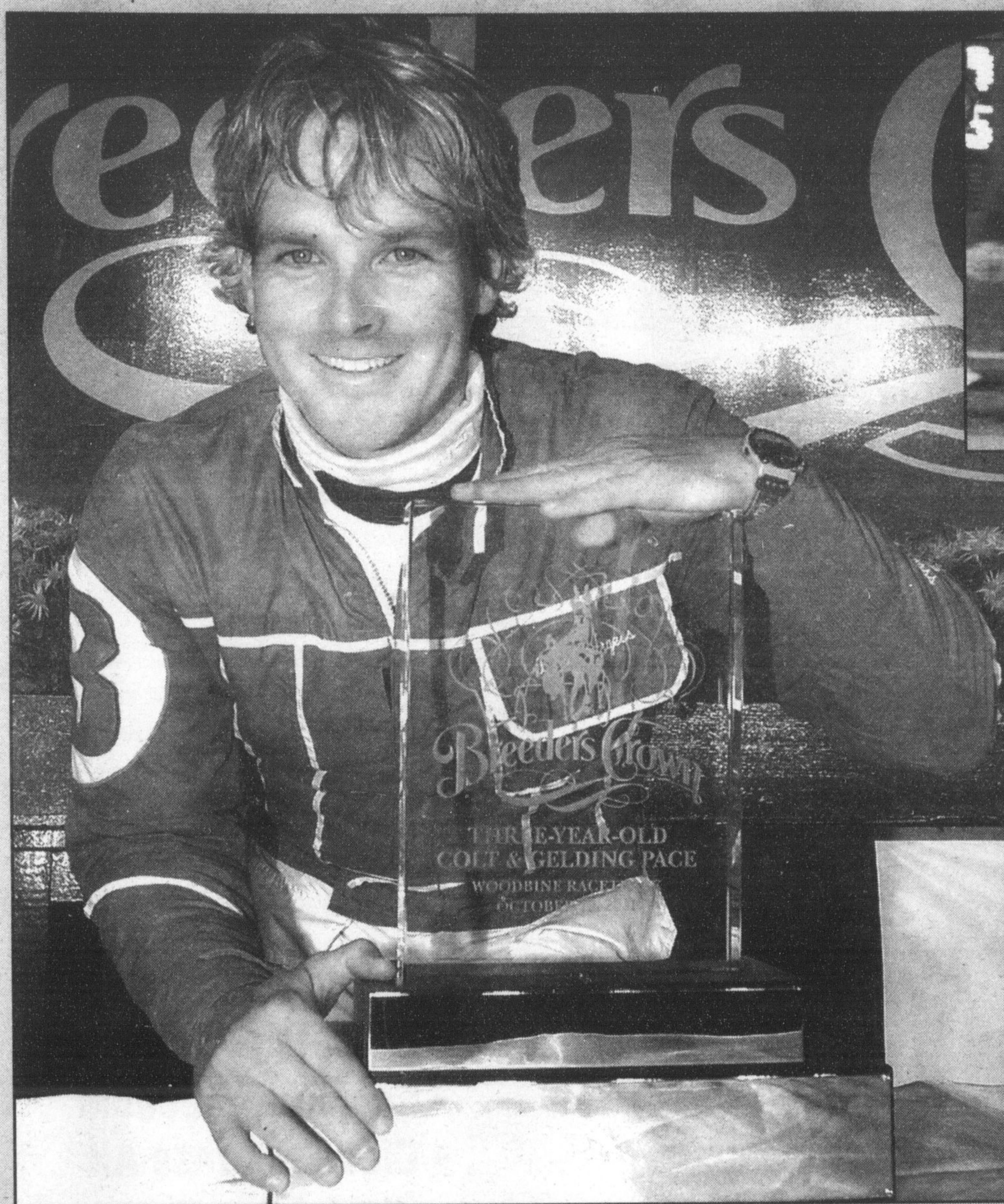




SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY OCTOBER 23, 2001



Savouring their success

Campbellville trainer Blair Burgess (left) proudly displays his Breeders Crown trophy after Real Desire (top) captured the Three-Year-Old Colt Pace at Woodbine Friday. Steering the champ to victory was hall-of-fame driver John Campbell (above) — who won three divisions on the night and surpassed the \$200 million plateau in career earnings. For full results of the Breeders Crown, see page 22.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Merchants deliver fierce finish to beat Buffalo

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Merchants' successes have been built on many solid variables, perhaps the most formidable of which has been a fierce finish.

At home against Buffalo Friday, Milton got reacquainted with that traditionally reliable aspect of its game on the way to ending its longest losing streak in several years.

Responding to what could have been looked upon as a must-win situation, the turmoil-riddled locals delivered three unanswered goals in the final frame to topple the last-place Lightning 6-3.

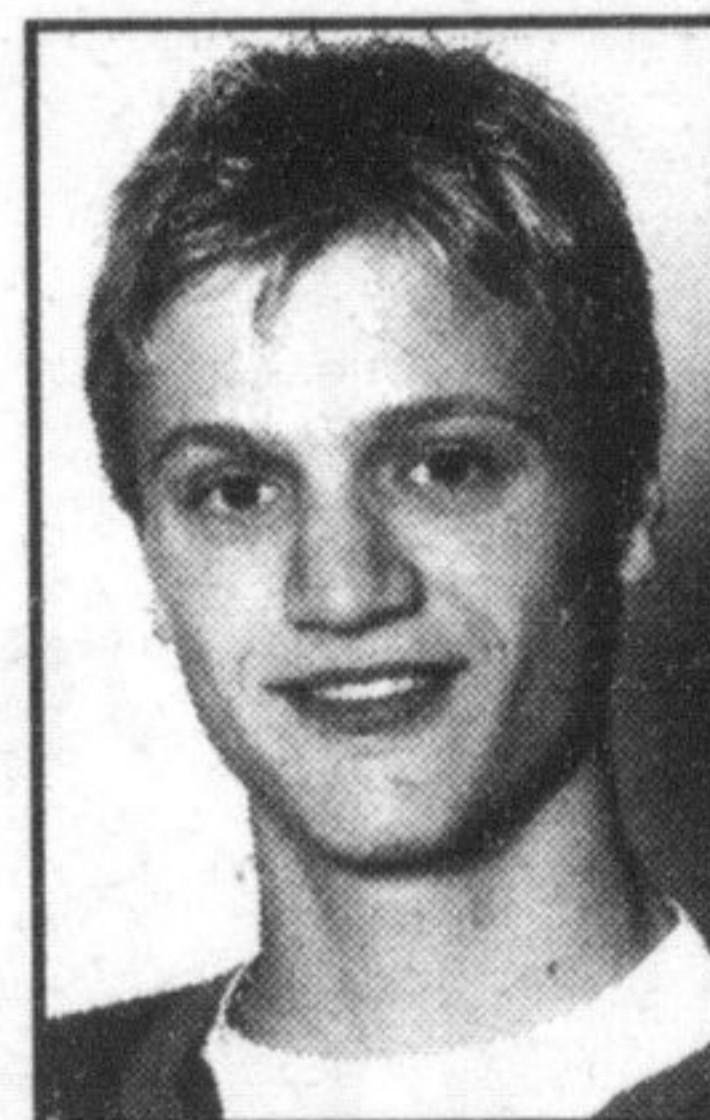
This victory followed four straight defeats and

lifted the defending conference champs — now under the direction of former NHL'er Dave Gagner — to 5-8.

Outshooting Buffalo 16-5 in the third was by far the most promising element of the night — especially after the visitors deposited a potentially tide-turning equalizer with just a second remaining in period two.

Jason Harshaw, Scott Malcolm and Shane Remenda answered back with goals to secure the victory. Scoring earlier on were Dan Carcillo, Rich Meloche and Brandon Valente.

Sean Samuel, Milton's impromptu starter, turned aside about two dozen shots for his second win as a Merchant. His goals against have come down each night since picking up the reigns for an injured Trevor Battaglia.



Sean Samuel

Vince Guiducci — whose back spasms have resurfaced to further hinder an already short-staffed blueline unit.

Buffalo's goals were scored by Nick

Also on the plus side, rookie defenceman Josh Vanderbreggen offered one of his best performances of the year and was especially effective at neutralizing Buffalo's Brian Janke.

Fellow freshmen Carcillo and Meloche were rather impressive as well.

Miltonian Mike Novak was called-up to fill the gap on defense left by veteran

Catanzaro, Rick Lynch and Shane Presley.

Milton took two warm-up violation penalties as well as one for illegal equipment Friday. Both types of infractions were firsts on the season for the team.

The Merchants will now look to put together a win streak, and move back into a playoff spot, this weekend when they battle a couple of mid-pack clubs.

Friday they host Oakville while Saturday they travel to Georgetown. Milton lost to both teams on the road late last month during the start of their worst stretch in about a decade.

Merchant notes: Milton seems to be more of a threat to score shorthanded these days than on the powerplay, which is operating under the 10 per cent range through October.



Merchants are Halloween Mad

Milton Vs Oakville

Friday, October 26th
at 8:00 pm, Memorial Arena
(Thompson Rd.)



We're looking for the fan with the Best Costume worn at Friday's Game!! Prizes to be Won.