



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY APRIL 19, 2002

Mustang cheerleaders capture provincial title

MD finally establishes itself as best in Ontario

By **STEVE LeBLANC***The Champion*

If Milton District High School's cheerleaders needed any reassurance of their worthiness to compete at the first-ever national championships, they certainly got it last weekend.

The Mustangs were invited to the inaugural showcase earlier in the season — due to their impressive track record in recent years — but proved they didn't require any automatic berth during the event's one remaining tune-up.

Within the half-filled confines of Mississauga's Hershey Centre, MD eclipsed two previous silver-medal provincial efforts by finally establishing itself as the premier squad in Ontario.

"This is awesome, to have worked so hard for five years and finally get it (provincial championship)," said co-captain Tegan Miller.

As usual, Oakville's T.A. Blakelock Tigers were the biggest obstacle between the local ladies and provincial gold. But they cleared that last hurdle with near-flawless performances on both Saturday and Sunday.

Led by long-time coach Andy Cecchini, MD held a two-and-a-half point lead after the opening round and squeezed by once again the following day — thanks to an impressive execution of a slightly retooled routine, that included especially challenging stretch doubles.

"We were the only school to do them," explained co-captain Jenny Smith. "We came after them (T.A. Blakelock), but we didn't focus too much on them. We just concentrated on our own routine and running everything perfect."

Added Miller, "Andy's been coaching for 15 years and this the first time he's ever won (provincials). He fell on the floor and practically fainted."

In addition to a slightly changed routine and late lineup substitution — with Natalie MacMillan returning from illness to replace an injured Sabine Strohan just a week before provincials — the eventual champs also had to contend with what was by far the largest crowd they've ever competed in front of.

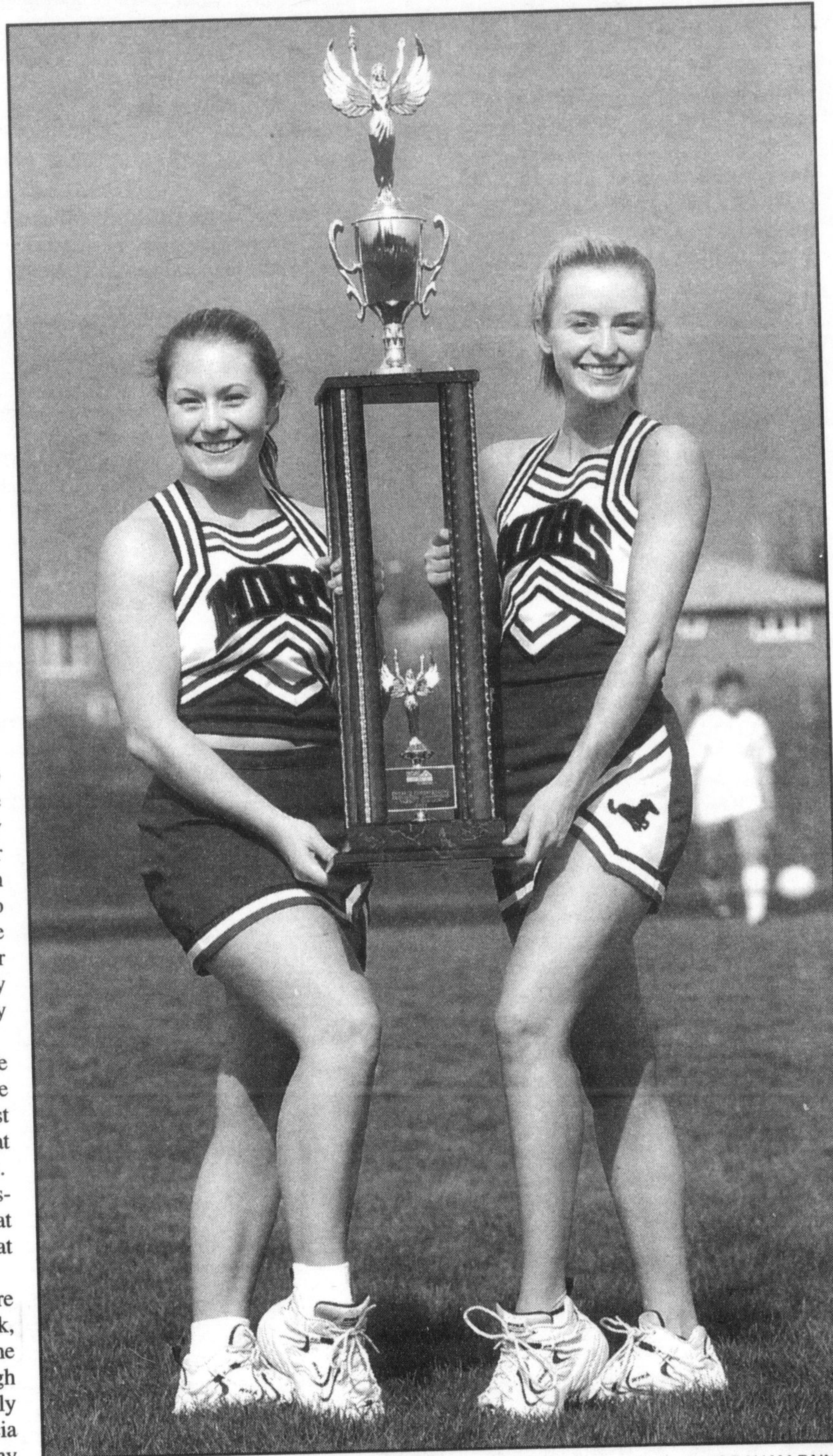
But big-event jitters were nowhere to be found among the team, that delivered exceptional efforts each time out to triumph over two dozen opponents.

"I was just so excited for the girls," said Stacey Farrell, a former cheerleader through the early '90s who now acts as the team's staff advisor alongside Wendy Berialt. "I'm really happy for them."

This marked the second straight time the 'Stangs managed to upstage T.A. Blakelock — adding to February's Central West Regional win, which followed runner-up showings at last year's provincials and this season's Halton finals.

Now MD will look to make it three in a row and possibly add to this year's hardware haul next weekend at the national championships — which will be held at Toronto's International Centre.

Making up the rest of the team that'll be going are Tara Anderson, Heather Bray, Chrissy Chadwick, Kristen Deumer, Jen Drewlo, Cailin Drijber, Justyne Jeffrey, Laine MacDonald, Val Massel, Ashleigh McGuinness, Cheryl Merritt, Kristine Morrow, Sally Nicholls, Katie O'Reilly, Lyndsay Richardson, Alicia Robinson, Brittany Roskam, Alex Rundle, Brittany Russell, Katherine Russell, Rachele Saevil, Ashley Samuelson, Sarah Samuelson, Amy Williams and assistant coaches Meredith Craigie and Amy Newell.



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Mustang co-captains Jenny Smith (left) and Tegan Miller proudly display the provincial trophy while (inset) the entire team celebrates as only they can.

Clarke's Golf

**ETONIC GLOVES**

Buy 1 get 1 FREE \$14.95

GREAT SELECTION OF LADIESVest, Windshirts,
Golf Shirts, Golf Jewellery

APRIL SPECIAL
NO TAX ON ALL
IN STOCK
GOLF BAGS

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NEXT DEMO DAY

May 9th from 4-7pm

at 3rd Line Driving Range

Callaway • Taylor Made • Mizuno

NOW OPEN ON SUNDAYS 12-4**18 Thompson Rd., Units #7 & 8, Milton • 905-878-1818**

www.clarkesgolf.com

MILTON**JIU-JITSU**

THE MARTIAL ART THAT HAS IT ALL

CALL OR VISIT US

310 MAIN ST. 905-878-1074 or 905-632-3100CLASSES FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY
ADULTS • CHILDREN • MALE • FEMALE**PLUS**

FIT TO FIGHT AEROBIC KICK BOXING CLASSES