



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2002

Mauraders give strong showing versus Sudbury

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**
Special to The Champion

Pop open the bubbly, the Milton Marauders are on the board.

Not only did they score the first points of their existence, after being outscored 105-0 in their first two contests, they almost won their first game. The Marauders traveled to Sudbury Saturday and lost 12-6, but they were within a few yards of tying it up.

In sloppy, muddy, miserable, rainy conditions, the Marauders drove to the Sudbury Spartans four-yard-line late in the game, and had to go for it on fourth and goal. They couldn't punch it into the end zone and time expired.

Milton's first ever touchdown drive started when cornerback Matt McPhail stole the ball out of a Sudbury running back's hands at the Spartans' 35-yard-line. The scoring drive ended when Ryan McGill handed off to running back Sean Faulkner for a five-yard touchdown.

Faulkner had a good day, running for 79 yards on 20 carries. The Marauders had 129 rushing yards overall. With the nasty conditions, Milton only threw the ball eight times. All three completions were to wide receiver Damien Hannaford.

The offensive line played well, according to coach Alan Collver. "That's one of the strong points of our team. We're starting to get the running backs to hit the holes and getting positive yards."

Both Sudbury touchdowns came on passing plays. "With the conditions the way they were, we didn't expect them to be that accurate," explained Collver.

Another positive note for Milton was that they blocked both Sudbury extra point attempts, giving them five blocks in their last two games. Collver credits Dave Joseph and Stu Gilbert for being largely responsible for that.

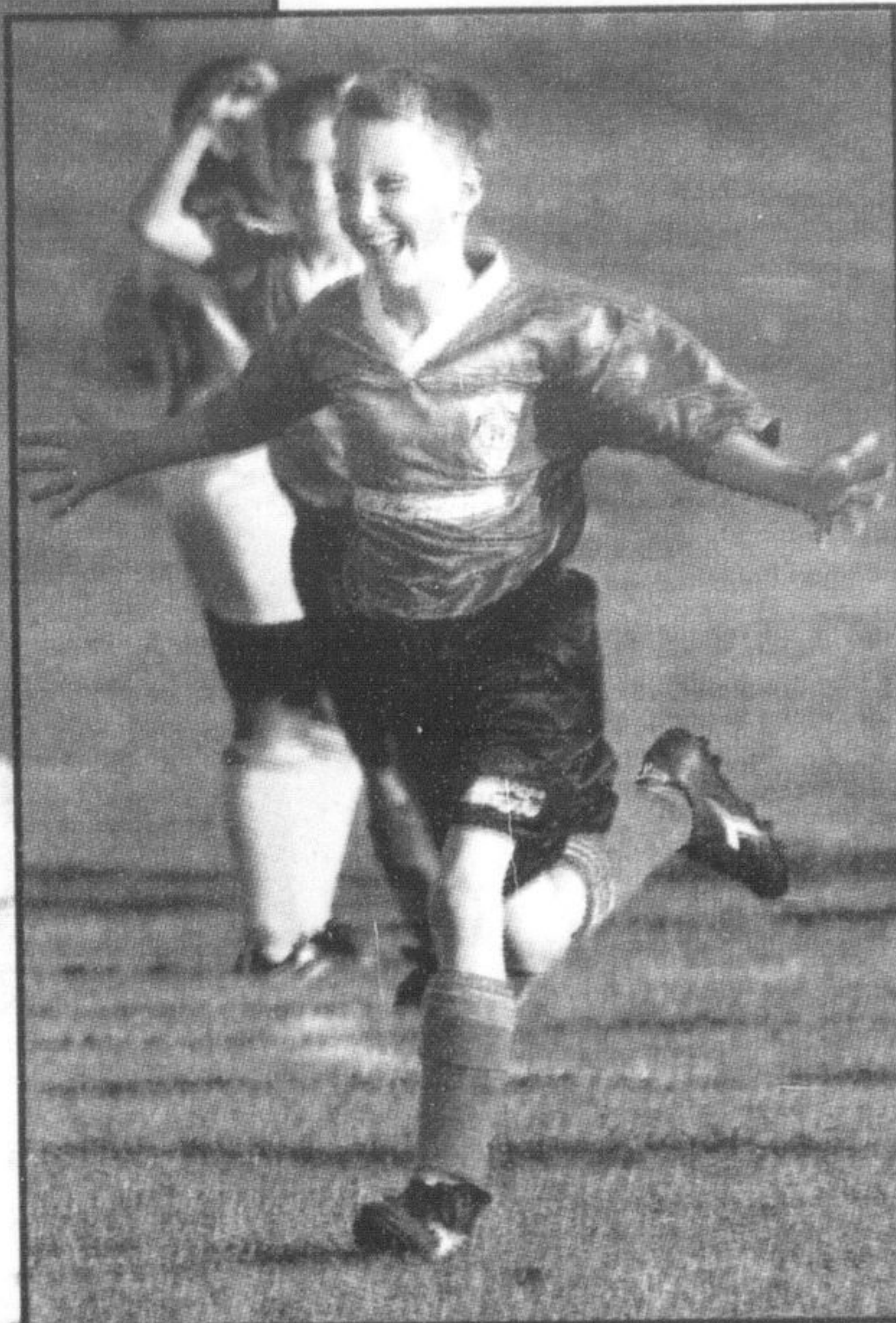
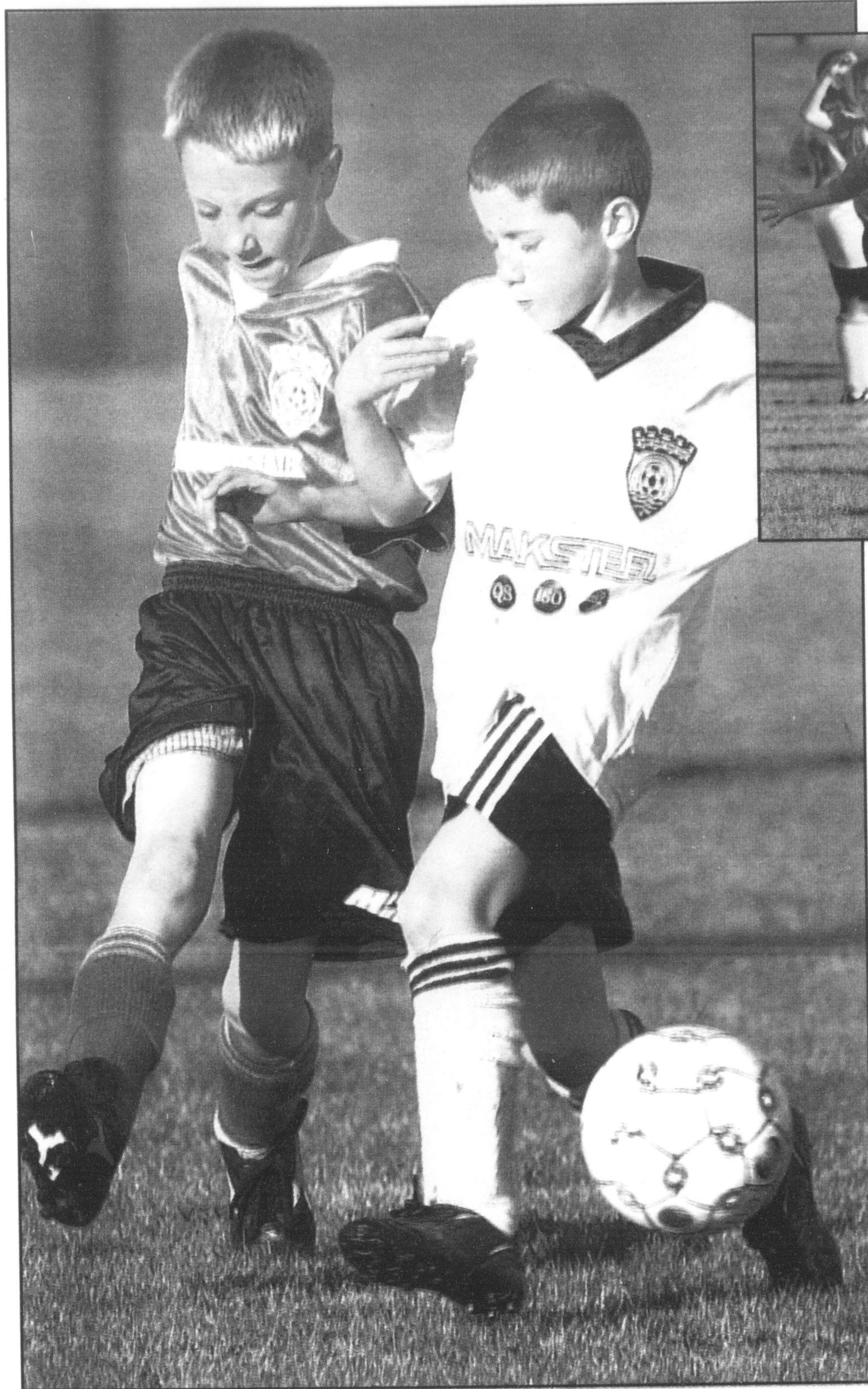
Gilbert was selected as Milton's player of the game by the Spartans. He had two sacks and five tackles.

Coach Collver was pleased with the overall effort of the team. "We made a few rookie mistakes that killed a couple of drives, but that's something I expect. They're cutting down on their mistakes and that's starting to work in our favour."

"The first touchdown was a major goal, now we're going to build on that. The guys just don't quit, they know they're going to get better."

The Marauders will host the Markham Raiders in their next game Saturday at 2 p.m. at Bishop Reding Field. The Raiders beat Sudbury 20-0 in their opening game and then defeated Sault Ste. Marie in their second game 26-13, with their quarterback Dean McLaren throwing for 251 yards and four touchdown passes.

Coach Collver figures the Mauraders are going to need a balanced attack against Markham.



Fancy foot work

Andrew Bacon (left) of The Toronto Star battles for possession against a Maksteel opponent and later (above) celebrates one of three goals he netted in boys under-11 house league action at Lions Sports Park Thursday evening. His hat-trick led the Toronto Star to a 4-2 victory over Maksteel.

Photos by **GRAHAM PAINE**

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