Marauders whitewashed by the Belleville Panthers

By MURRAY TOWNSEND

Special to The Champion

Talk about your Dog Day Afternoon.

Not only was the heat unbearable, so was the football, as the Milton Marauders lost 39-0 to the Belleville Panthers Sunday at Bishop Reding Secondary School.

If this game had been named after a movie, it would be The Longest Day, or Nightmare on Main Street. Possibly, Black Sunday.

The Marauders ran their record to 0-5 in the Northern Football Conference, and have been outscored 194-12. Naming the season after a movie would call to mind such titles as The Sum of All Fears, and Misery.

The Panthers scored at least one point on every possession but one, although almost every time they started with great field position.

It was kind of reminiscent of that baseball movie, Field Position of Dreams.

There's not much point detailing the Belleville scoring. They had five touchdowns, a field goal and two single points.

One of the extra points was blocked. There was just no stopping the Men in Black (and Green). It wasn't going to be like Any Given Sunday for Milton.

In any event, the local team, on the hottest day of this century, battled on every down as if it were Armageddon. They deserve a lot of credit. They certainly can't be accused of jumping on the lifeboats and deserting a sinking Titanic.

Even with the game out of reach near the end of the fourth quarter, there was Alistair Bailey giving it all as he chased down a Runaway Bride sashaying to the end

There was The Terminator, Stu Gilbert, blocking an extra point attempt and getting Milton's only sack, as well as displaying his usual ill temper. Belleville players were probably wondering What's Eating Gilbert Grape.

The Die Hard defense showed their character a couple of times, staving off the inevitable deep in their own territory. Mark Dow recovered a Panther fumble for Milton's only turnover of the game.

The defense didn't get to rest too often and that may have led to some late game frustration. With flags flying on almost every play, it looked like a scene out of Necessary Roughness.

Several players on both sides were nailed with objectionable conduct and unnecessary roughness penalties.

It was far from Terms of Endearment as some Indecent Proposals may have suggested a Mission Impossible. Chris Miners was disqualified for Cruel Intentions, trying to turn a Belleville player into a Pink Panther, although there seemed to be other infractions just as serious.

On offense, the field must have looked like the Green Mile to the Marauders and any gains like The Longest Yard. Milton's best drive got them to the Belleville 15-yard line before a fumble by Chad Forde put an end to that.

Tough day for QB

Otherwise, Ryan McGill looked good early at quarterback before desperation passes were eventually intercepted, and Adam MacPhail had some good gains early in the game from the backfield. With two siblings on the team though, he may have been wondering a couple times as he was gang tackled, Oh Brothers, Where Art Thou?

At receiver, Damien Hannaford, probably the team's offensive MVP so far this season, had another good game, especially on one catch in which he battled with a defender for the ball and took it 30 yards.

He was second in the league before this week in kickoff return yardage, partially, of course, because Milton has so many kickoffs to return.

Robert Wilson made a couple nice grabs until a Deep Impact collision with the bleachers. And Eric Snyder showed he was a sure handed receiver when his number was called.

Hopefully, this won't be As Good as it Gets for the Milton Marauders. They will play again tomorrow night at 7 at Birchmount Stadium against the Mega-City Maddogs.

Annual bike camp set for coming week

Local mountain bikers are once again getting in gear to honour one of their fallen

Milton and area racers are preparing for Rory's Camp in memory of Rory Dick one of three E.C. Drury High School teens killed in a car-train crash September 28, 2000.

The second annual camp is scheduled to run July 9 and 10 at Hilton Falls Conservation Area. The weekend program is open to racers of all skill levels and offers competitive mountain bike training from expert riders.

For sign up or for more information, call (519) 853-0357 e-mail cwdick@sympatico.ca. or visit www..rorycamp.8k.com.

Please fax all of your sports reports to Steve LeBlanc at (905) 878-4943, or drop them off to the newsroom, 191 Main St. E.



Magic all-stars begin year with shutout wins

Milton's Under-10 girls all-star soccer squad kicked off their season in fierce fashion with back-to-back shutout victories Sunday.

The Magic began with a 3-0 whitewash of Flamborough, and followed that up with a 1-0 squeaker over Burlington.

Milton displayed a balanced scoring attack during this successful stretch, with four different players denting the twine.

Doing the honours in game one were

Lauren Kelly, Katie Kluge and Kristina Luce, while making the lone deposit in the latter showdown was Eleanor Levman.

Kluge was between the pipes for the second shutout, while blanking Flamborough was Alex Schroder.

The local girls controlled the lion's share of both contests and defensively, allowed the opposition very little in the way of quality scoring opportunities --maintaining their focus amidst extremely hot conditions.



Here's your chance to win a pair of PLATINUM LEAFS TICKETS for their season opener and a Synergy Hockey Stick (prizes valued at \$800). Please send entries along with your name, address and telephone number either by email, fax or mail to:



Milton Junior A Hockey Club 420 Main St., Ste. 636 Milton, ON L9T 5G3 email: Ken@MiltonMerchants.com fax: 905-849-6839

CONTEST RULES:

 Entries must be received before Monday, July 15/02 • Contest is open to all members of the Milton community except for those persons affiliated with the Milton Merchants including staff, volunteers & family members.

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All Teams must register by Wednesday July 10



All proceeds to Halton Women's Place