

Rural lad makes early strides in track career

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Brad Hoy's track and field career is progressing almost as fast as his legs can carry him.

Campbellville's 12-year-old racer has been part of the club circuit for a mere two months — with the Bramalea Bullets — but has already put himself in consideration for national competition, with some superb efforts at the Hershey Ontario Championships in Oshawa June 29.

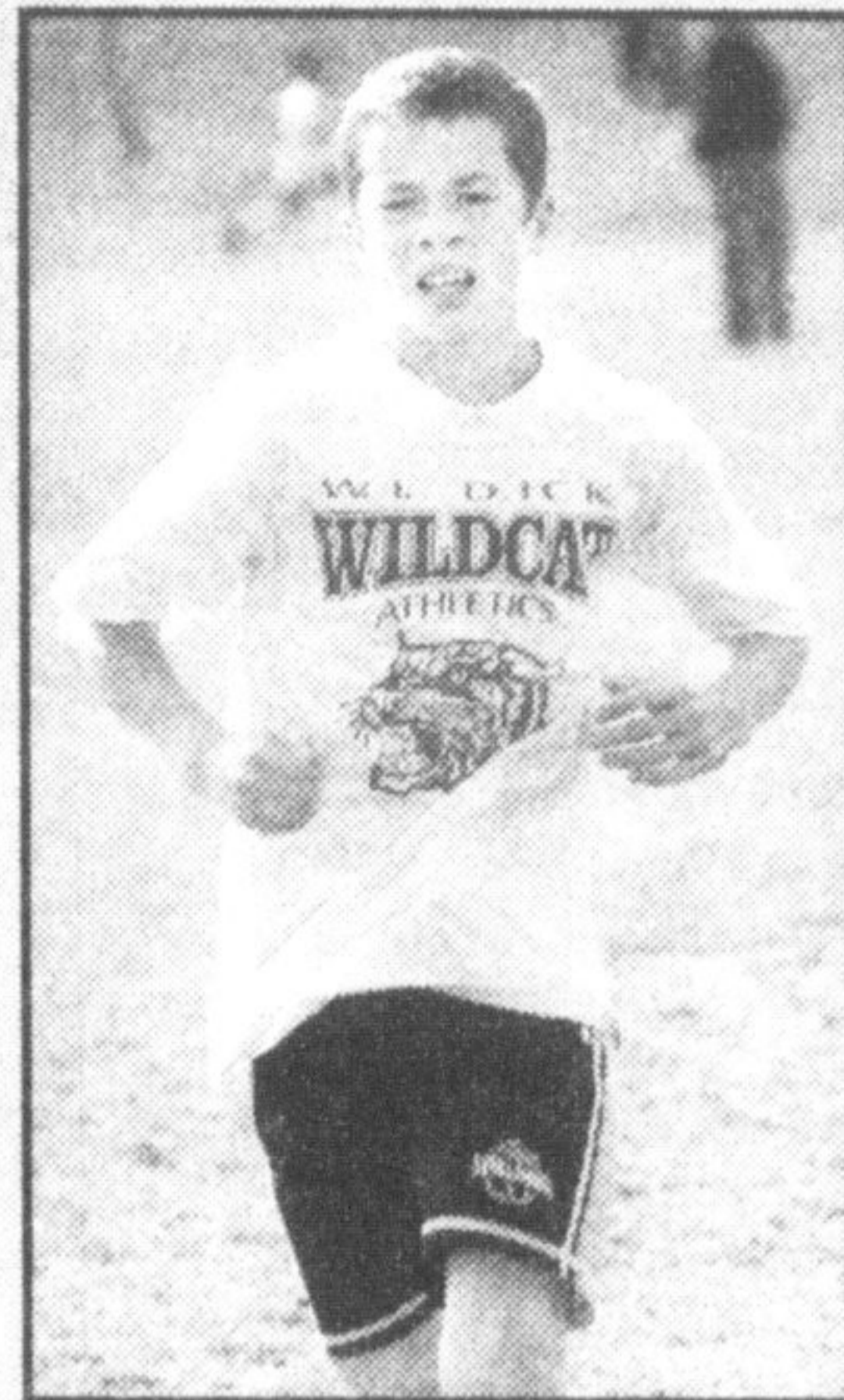
Battling humid conditions as well as topflight pre-teen rivals, the W.I. Dick Middle School student delivered three-medal winning performances including a gold in the 4x100 metre boys relay.

A late substitute to the team, he ran a strong second leg and helped the Bullets improve on their provincial qualifying time — with an overall finish of 57.15 seconds for top spot in the 11 and 12-year-old boys class.

Individually, Hoy raced the 800m to second-place honours — stopping the

clock at 2:36.12 — and was third in the 400m with a personal best showing of 1:04.21. South-Simcoe Dufferin's Ben Francis won both events.

Campbellville's up-and-coming performer also took fourth in the long jump with a top leap of six-feet, eight-inches.



Brad Hoy has shown lots of promise in track and field since joining the club circuit in May.

This impressive all-around campaign — which followed a somewhat surprisingly successful qualifying meet in late May — now puts Hoy in the running for one of about a dozen spots on the provincial squad that'll travel to Hershey, Pennsylvania in August for the Hershey Nationals.

He'll find out within the next week if he's made the team.

Hoy's running career began on the public school cross-country circuit several years ago, but as of late he's thrived in both short and long-distance races with the W.I. Dick Wildcats and, most recently, the Bullets.

Under the guidance of Rick Milts, Hoy is considered one of the Bullet's most promising athletes, despite being relatively untested at the club level.

Barnes gives commanding performance at provincials

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Harry Barnes' provincial prowess reached a whole new level late last month.

Although Ontario age class triathlon championships are nothing new for Campbellville's 55-year-old racer, few — if any — have been as thoroughly dominating as the one delivered in Hamilton June 29.

Amid sweltering morning heat at Gullivers Lake, Barnes absolutely decimated the competition within his 55-59 year-old men's class — beating runner-up Ronald Boucher of Windsor by an almost unbelievable 21 minutes.

His 2:10 finish would have bested the top placers in both the 50-54 and 45-49 age groups as well, while overall it put the highly driven triathlete 46th.

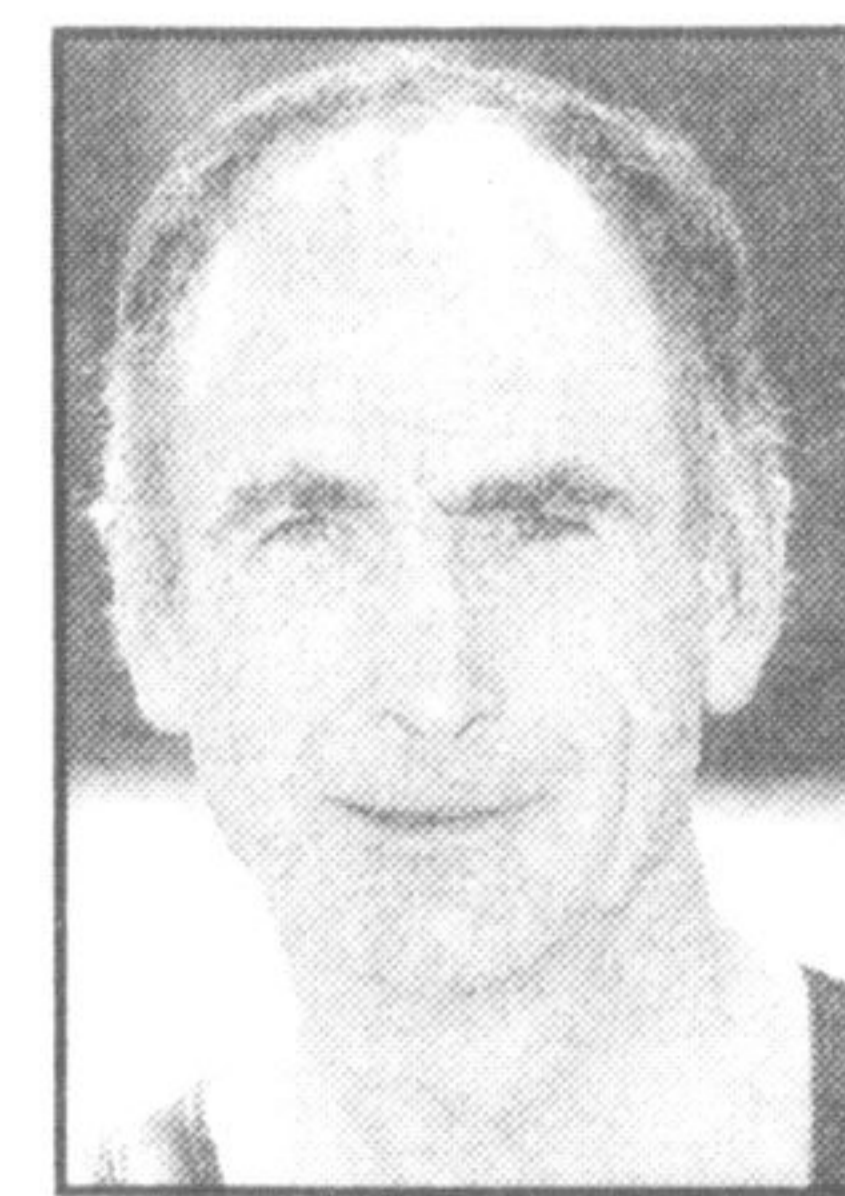
"To have beaten the next two younger class winners is practically unheard of," said Barnes. "I feel really good about my performance. I basically led the whole way."

Sponsored this year by Arthur Electric and Twiss Fuels, the rural racer completed the 1.5-kilometre swim in just over a half-hour and then cushioned his lead over the 40km bike and 10km run with 1:02.08 and 37.39-minute efforts respectively.

"We had four laps in the water and on the third I just took off," he recalled. "I had a great run as well. I heard the announcer say my name and predict I'd have about a 38-minute run, so doing it in under that was really good."

Barnes' Ontario championship finish was a full 10 minutes better than his season-opening performance in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Matching his provincial-winning time would no



Harry Barnes

doubt put him in position to win the nationals in Edmonton, Alberta Sunday.

His Canadian championship three-peat bid fell short last year, when in the 50-54 year ranks he surrendered the title to Wentworth, Nova Scotia's Bryan Scallion. But Barnes has beaten his eastern rival on other occasions, and feels confident of doing so again this weekend.

"Unlike previous years, I'm looking forward to going to this year's nationals. I'm not sure what that means (about my chances)."

As always, he heads into national competition as a gold-medal contender. Sunday's event — on a course Barnes has raced twice before — will serve as the final tune-up to November's World Championships in Cancun, Mexico. Mexico's climate will no doubt be to Barnes' advantage, although he's intent not to make any specific predictions this time around.

Doing so last year may have put the psychological kibosh on equaling his best-ever showing — seventh — on the international stage. He fell just short of achieving this with a 2:12.40 finish that was good enough for eighth in his age group.

Quipped Barnes, "I'm just not going to say (where I expect to finish) this time."

Meanwhile, Miltonian Tina Braam missed the provincials in order to concentrate on an upcoming Iron Man competition in Lake Placid. She and a host of other local athletes will compete in the grueling event at the end of July.

Things not getting any easier for the expansion Marauders

Milton gets thumped by Mega-City

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**
Special to The Champion

As 31-3 losses go, the Milton Marauders had a pretty good game on Saturday night against the Mega-City Maddogs.

Milton had their single best offensive play of the season, some of their biggest hits on defense, their first field goal, came close to having their first lead, and played their most entertaining game.

The Maddogs were forced out of their regular home park at Birchmount Stadium because of the CUPE strike and hosted the game at Markham Centennial field. Add to that the eerie glow in the air because of the smoke from the Quebec forest fires, and the scene was set for a night of strange occurrences.

Mega-City took the lead about 10 seconds into the game when they got a single point on the kick-off.

They got another point on a missed field goal a couple possessions later, and scored two points on a safety on smart play by punter Mike O'Brien to throw the ball through his own end zone, but that was about it for their offense until the end of the half.

Much of that was the result of inspired defense by the Marauders.

Stu Gilbert led the hit parade once again, adding to his Greatest Hits album. Marco Pereira had a noticeably inspired effort as did Martin Pyle, Alistair Bailey, David Joseph, Matt MacPhail, Eric

Barrand, Jamie Johnson, Mark Dow and Chad Forde in the defensive backfield.

Mega-City knew they were in a dog fight from the beginning.

The Maddogs quarterback got up slowly a couple times after Milton defenders got to him, and one player didn't get up at all after a monster hit by Joseph.

Another hit by Gilbert allowed Milton an opportunity to get their first lead of the season.

He knocked the Mega-City ball carrier into the Land of Oz and the ball about 20 yards behind him, where the Marauders were quick to recover it.

Trailing 2-0, Gary Baetsen completed a 15-yard strike to tight end Craig Robertson deep in Mega-City territory. They couldn't move the ball any further, however, and on third down Baetsen was sacked. O'Brien's field goal try was blocked.

At this point, the Maddogs had all but given up trying to run the ball and were sending four receivers in motion from the shotgun on every play. If you didn't know, you'd be hard pressed to tell which team hadn't won a game this season.

Mega-City finally scored their first touchdown on a pass to the corner of the endzone, with less than a minute remaining in the half to carry a 10-0 lead into the break. The two-point conversion was stopped.

Milton started off the second half

in good style, as well. On Mega-City's first possession, Gilbert forced a fumble, and recovered it himself.

That led to Milton's best offensive play of the season.

With Baetsen scrambling in Milton territory, he found a not so wide open Eric Snyder and threw the ball.

Snyder pushed off on the defender and battled for the catch. The defender fell, leaving Snyder all alone. He raced down the sideline for 68 yards before the Maddogs finally caught up to him. The play led to an O'Brien field goal, making the score 10-3.

That was it for Milton, however. With exhaustion perhaps the biggest factor, the rest of the game belonged to Mega-City. Milton did, however, block yet another extra point, this one by Pereira.

A lighter moment came late in the game with quarterback Baetsen on the sidelines with a bad hand and Ryan McGill not at the game. Big Andrew Todd, normally the centre, took over the pivot position for the final series.

On the first two plays he took the snap and crashed through the line, gaining a couple yards each time, much to his and everyone's amusement, including the Mega-City players. On third down he fumbled the snap and the Maddogs recovered.

The Marauders will travel to Sault Ste. Marie this weekend to take on the Storm, the only other winless team in the Northern Football Conference.

NAME THE TEAM Contest

Milton Merchants

are changing their name and want ideas from you!

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 • Winner will appear in The Canadian Champion on Tuesday, July 16/02 • 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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