



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY AUGUST 30, 2002

Lacrosse duo suffer national heartbreak

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

It's tough to say just whose heartbreak ran deeper.

But one thing's for certain — former Milton Mavericks Jason Ford and Kaegen Sherriff both choked down mighty bitter pills of defeat at the Jr. B Founders Cup last weekend in Georgetown.

If disappointment was measured solely on what championship level it was met, then Sherriff would clearly get the nod. His Spartan Warriors — OLA victors just two weeks earlier and favourites to reign supreme nationally — dropped Sunday evening's gold-medal showdown by the narrowest of margins, falling to the Clarington Green Gaels 7-6.

Exacting revenge for a provincial loss to Spartan, Clarington's Doug Trudeau notched the game winner with a mere 50 seconds left in regulation time to clinch the team's third Founders Cup title in five years.

Sherriff tallied twice in the finals and got off one last shot at the buzzer which didn't quite reach the net. Recalled the former Maverick, "I didn't see what happened, I guess it was blocked because there was a whole mess of people in front."

The 20-year-old veteran spent several minutes after time expired pacing the floor in disbelief — perhaps not quite accepting that he had come so close to a national championship in his final year of junior lacrosse.

"It's certainly disappointing, to come that close and not win it," he remarked.

"Spartan had an awesome season, before and after I got there. It just would have been extra sweet to cap it off with the Founders Cup."

However, Sherriff has to be feeling quite satisfied from a personal performance standpoint. The graduating junior ranked among the top scorers during last week's national showcase with seven goals and 14 assists.

Seventeen of those points came in the round robin, which Spartan swept with a 9-8 squeaker against the host Halton Hills Bulldogs and routs of Calgary, Saskatchewan and Bedford, Nova Scotia.

From there, the Warriors knocked off Edmonton 15-10 Saturday afternoon in the semifinals — setting the stage for their championship defeat.

For Ford — who won national silver with the 1999 Mavericks —

Founders Cup heartbreak struck twice.

First his Bulldogs were edged by Clarington 7-5 in overtime in Saturday night's semifinals — thus crushing hopes for a shot at the title. Then when it looked like Halton Hills was going to salvage the tournament with a bronze-medal victory over the Edmonton Miners, Ford's potential game winner in overtime was outdone by three late goals against for a 9-7 loss.

"That did kind of hurt," remarked Halton Hills' 20-year-old assistant captain, of having his lead erased in the extra session. "I went back to the bench (after scoring) and said to the guys 'Come on, let's play good defense', but we couldn't pull it out."

• see FORD on page 27



Take that!

Fort Erie's Joe Brooks (above left) delivers a blow to Basem Gohar of Orangeville and then (at left) takes one in return during recent amateur boxing action at the Mohawk Slots. Gohar went on to win the three-round bout by unanimous decision. The eight-fight card was one of several put on at Mohawk and Woodbine this summer.

Photos by **GRAHAM PAINE**



Kaegen Sherriff appears rather dejected after his Spartan Warriors drop 7-6 decision to the Green Gaels in Sunday's Founders Cup final.

FEEL LIKE A FISH OUT OF WATER?

New in town? Get acquainted with Milton and all it has to offer by ordering a subscription to

The Canadian Champion

Where To Shop! Where To Dine!
Community News!
Professional Services!

....And more!



Only **\$49.00** per year
Phone 878-2341
or mail cheque or money order to
P.O. Box 248, 191 Main St. E.,
Milton, Ont. L9T 4N9