



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 5, 2002

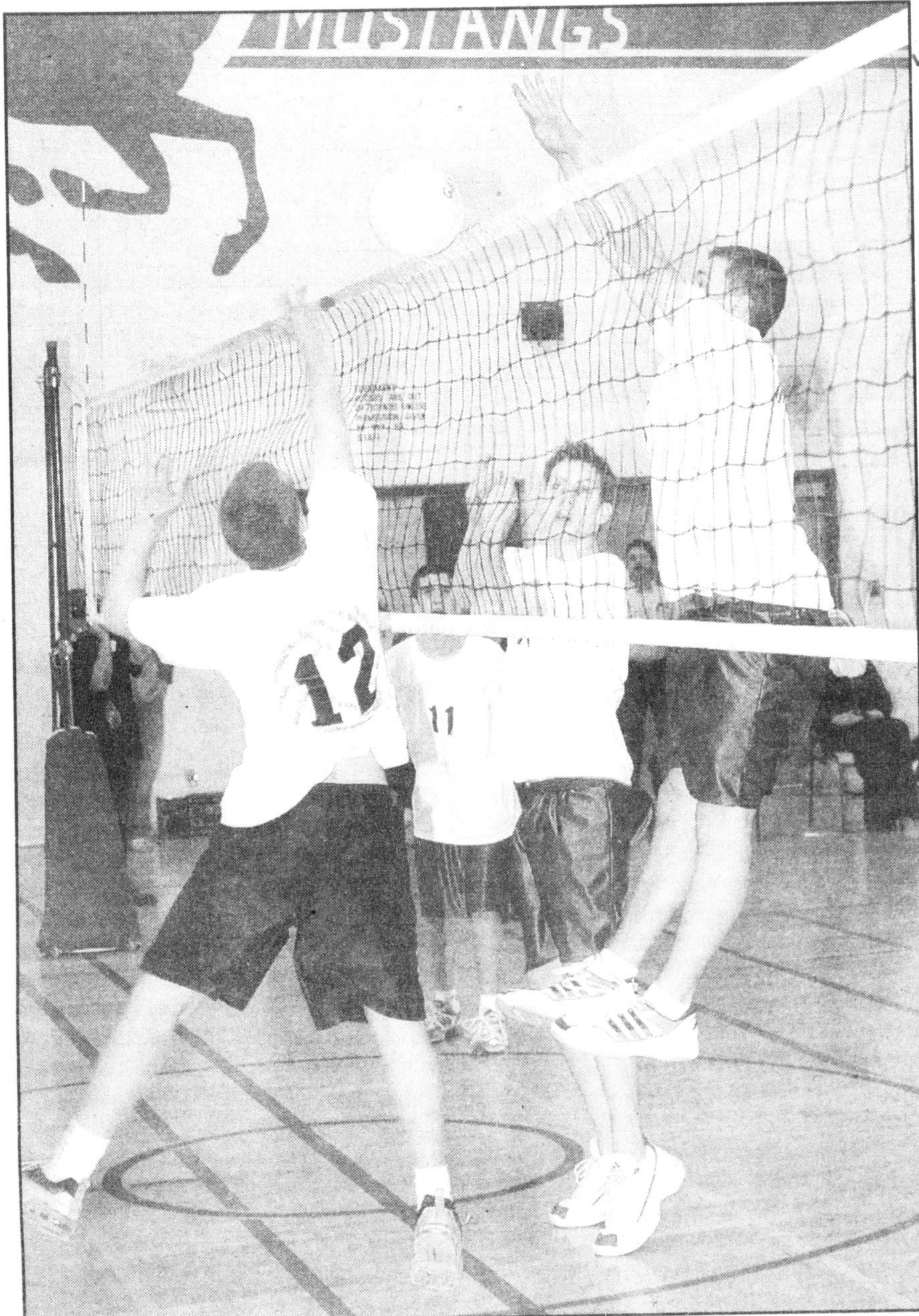


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## Net gains

Milton District Mustang Matt Price (right) successfully blocks Iroquois Ridge's Andy Spiro during junior boys volleyball playoff action at MD Thursday. Thanks to strong play by Price and Connor Mitchell — as well as a revitalized hitting game by Cody Williams — the Mustangs rallied from a 25-20 game-one defeat to win the first-round battle. MD clinched the match with a 15-12 tie-breaker and now play Oakville Trafalgar in this afternoon's quarterfinals in Oakville.

## Haydar named AHL's top rookie for October

*Leads scoring with Milwaukee Admirals*

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Darren (Mini) Haydar apparently has no intention of messing with tradition.

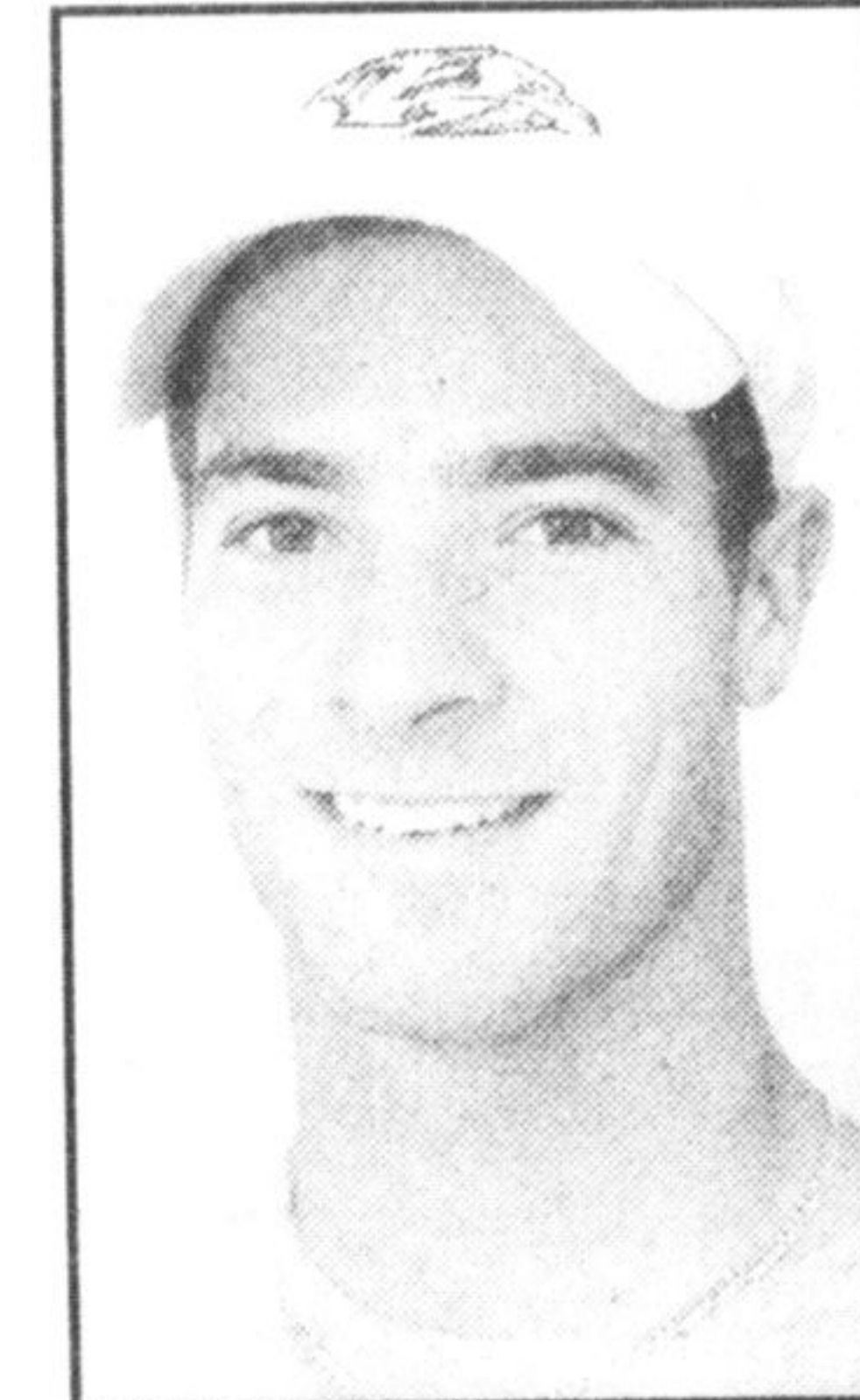
Milton's most prolific scorer has been lighting up goaltenders and winning individual awards since his pre-teen days with the Halton Hurricanes.

October represents the latest chapter in this ongoing success saga — which more than ever seems destined to take the local star to hockey's innermost sanctum.

On Friday, Haydar was named the American Hockey League's Rookie of the Month — following an early-season tear that factored heavily into an undefeated run for his Milwaukee Admirals.

Following a three-assist opener, the 23-year-old Miltonian — now playing left wing after splitting his time between right wing and centre with both the Merchants and New Hampshire Wildcats — went on a five-game scoring streak, which was highlighted by goals in back-to-back tilts with the defending Calder Cup champion Chicago Wolves.

Haydar's team-leading six goals and 10 points last month put him atop all AHL rookies, while his plus-9 rating was among the best for the entire league.



Darren Haydar

"I'm still taking things in stride and learning as I'm going, but it's pretty easy to play well and score when you play on a winning team," said Haydar Friday afternoon, heading into a hectic three-game weekend for Milwaukee.

Coach Peter Horachek has no doubt been impressed with his young forwards scoring exploits.

But he seems equally encouraged by Haydar's work ethic and willingness to

improve his overall game.

"Darren's done a good job. He's got off to a good start and worked hard at the other parts of the game (other than scoring)," said Milwaukee's first-year skipper.

"I think he'll continue to do that. It's in his nature to improve."

Milwaukee's unbeaten run finally ended with a 7-6 defeat to Chicago Sunday. Haydar had one assist in the losing effort.

The Admirals' 4-1-4 start — thanks in large part to Haydar's 11 points — marks a vast improvement over last season, when the team finished last in its division and missed the playoffs.

## 'A' midgets still undefeated

Positively perfect.

Milton's A midgets have been exactly that through the first half of their season — which ended with a 13-0 annihilation of Orangeville Sunday evening at Memorial Arena.

The Action Utility Trailer Winterhawks out-shot their guests a whopping 52-8, with a relatively idle Aaron Clarke earning the shutout. Offensively, Derek Blanchard led the way with a hat-trick, while tallying twice were Phil Foley, Kyle Strong and Chris Whiting.

Sitting at an unblemished 12-0, Milton hasn't just

beat the competition but thoroughly dominated it — outscoring its opponents 77-11.

That impressive figure includes six shutouts, three each for Clarke and netminding partner Tim Johnston. The pair were completely flawless last week in delivering four straight goose eggs, the biggest of which came in a 2-0 blanking of second-place Caledon October 28.

The A midgets — who represent the best shot at an undefeated season Milton has had in recent memory — will now look to thrive in tournament play this weekend in Mooretown.



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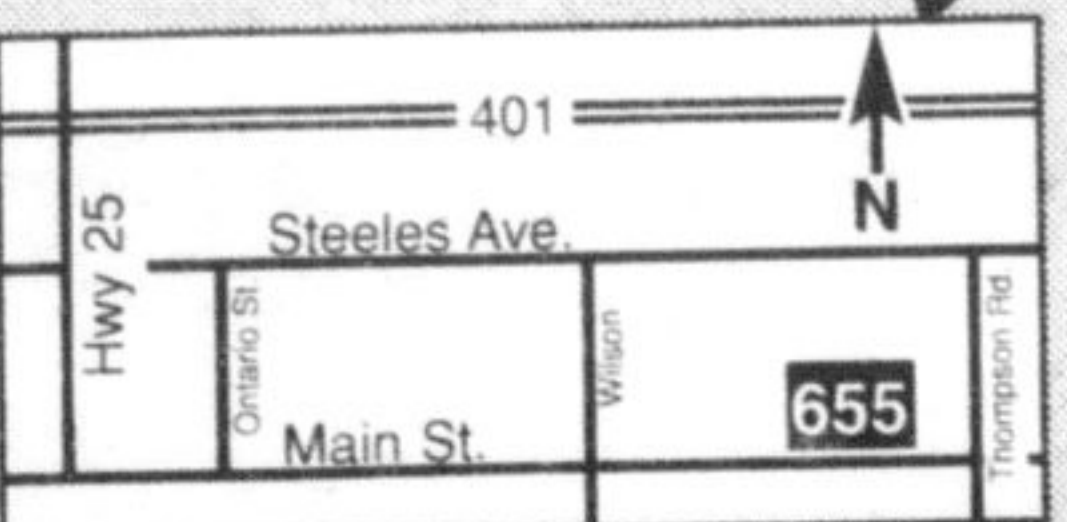
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