



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 15, 2002

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## Senior Mustangs humbled in tier two finals

*Milton District's season ends with stinging loss at Ivor Wynne Stadium*

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

In the end, there was just no grounding the senior Eagles.

Milton District enjoyed the last opportunity to do so, as somewhat surprising tier two finalists yesterday morning at Hamilton's Ivor Wynne Stadium.

But the Mustangs proved to be just another victim for undefeated Q.E. Park — who put the finishing touches on a perfect 9-0 campaign by rolling over MD 37-6.

Turnovers turned out to be a crippling blow for the underdog Mustangs through much of the championship showdown — particularly after a half-back option touchdown just before half-time offered hope for a possible comeback.

"That opening drive in the third quarter really hurt us," said head coach Keith Pearce, whose team suffered the agony of a championship humbling just six days after tasting the ecstasy of a semifinal upset over Burlington Central. "Turning it over and then getting scored on really shifted the momentum back to them. We did a lot of things that didn't help us today."

### Opposing quarterback sharp

Living up to their name, the Eagles soared through the opening half with back-to-back touchdown strikes by star pivot Gord Robertson.

From there, they tightened the noose by recovering two fumbles and picking off Mustang QB Ryan Page early in the fourth quarter.

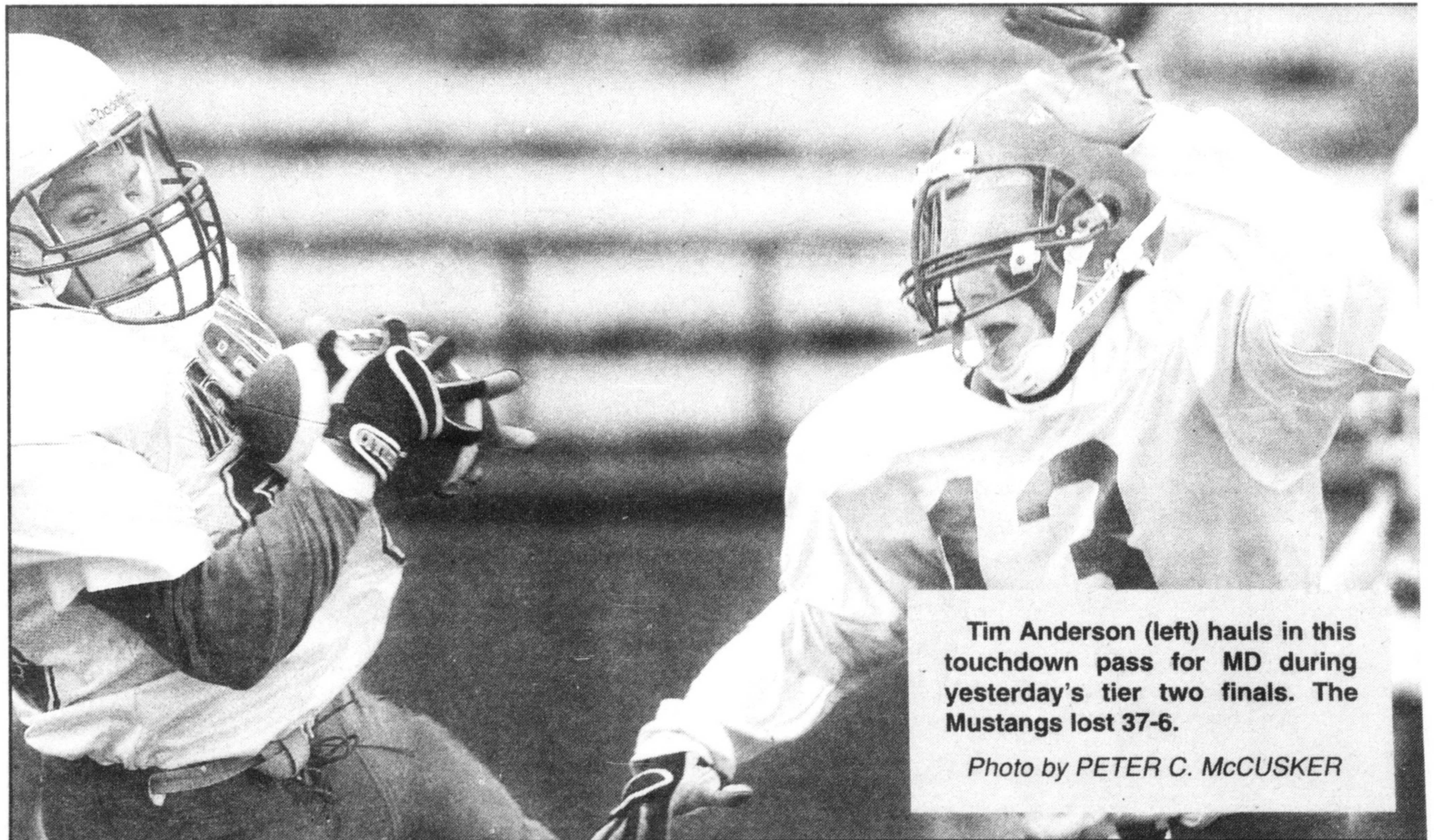
MD's lone major was delivered in the closing moments of the first half, when Jay Price connected on a 24-yard end-zone pass to a leaping Tim Anderson. A two-point convert attempt was denied and from there the Mustangs — down by nine at intermission — just couldn't find that all elusive breakthrough play that might have allowed them to turn the tide.

Overall, MD suffered five turnovers for the morning and had its four-game win streak snapped by the eventual champs — who besides a narrow regular-season win over Burlington Central were never seriously threatened through 2002 play.

Lee Frittenburg was the chief Mustang carrier yesterday — highlighting his ground game with a huge 20-yard drive in the opening frame while things were still up for grabs. On the flip side, he showed strongly on defense as well with about a dozen tackles.

Dan Cordner wasn't far behind in this department with another sound performance.

Q.E. Park gave up just one touchdown apiece in each of its three playoff wins.



Tim Anderson (left) hauls in this touchdown pass for MD during yesterday's tier two finals. The Mustangs lost 37-6.

Photo by PETER C. McCUSKER

## Barnes secures bronze at worlds

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

Harry Barnes has finally reached the international podium.

A top three age-class finish at the world triathlon championships had eluded the local racer heading into competition in Cancun, Mexico Saturday morning.

But amidst scorching temperatures — which claimed more than a few victims — Canada's perennial powerhouse blazed his way to a third-place performance among 55 to 59-year-old males.

His 2:16:31 effort was a scant two seconds behind Arizona's Dick Tomlin. Barnes said that had he known who the eventual silver medalist was before hitting the wire, their order of finish would no doubt have been reversed.

More often than not, triathletes aren't aware who their chief division rivals are

since all age divisions compete at the same time.

"I know I could have stepped it up at the end and beat him (Tomlin), but I'm satisfied with bronze," said the longtime triathlete, who had cracked the top-10 during previous world championships in Montreal and Edmonton. "I just wanted to get on the podium."

While Barnes had thrived in hot race conditions before, even he had to ease up at times on Saturday — especially during the final 10 km run, when under a 32-degree sun energy-drained bodies were littered along the course.

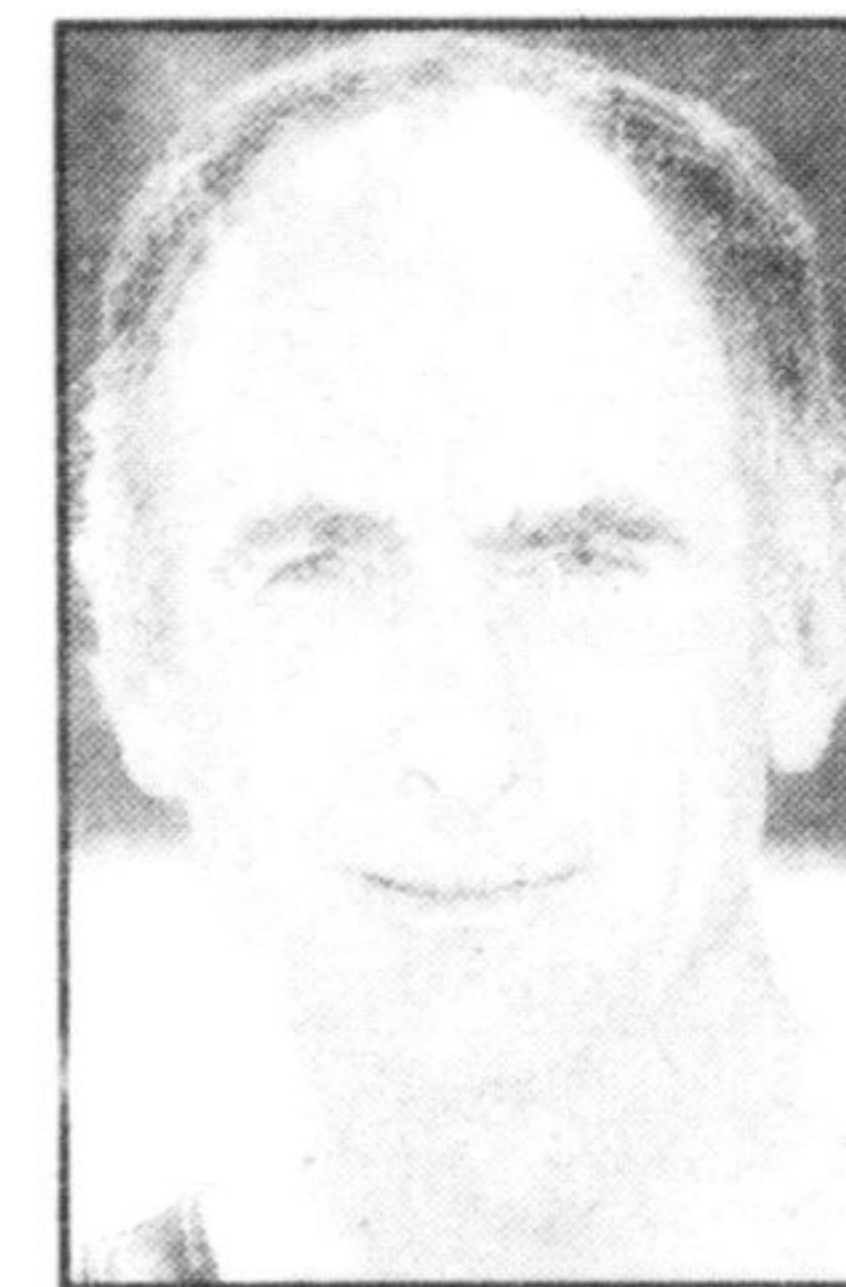
Recalled Barnes, "People were falling

left and right. It was brutal, a real survival out there. I probably could have given more, but seeing how hot it was I was nervous about pushing myself too hard. It was hard to know where that fine line was."

The local racer obviously stayed on the right side of that line and finished within two minutes of age-class champion Bradley Price of Utah — who had beaten Barnes by as much as 20 minutes during previous international events.

"I'm definitely gaining on him," he said. Now that the search for a world championship medal has bore fruit, the local triathlete says he'll take the next couple of months to decide if he's got enough left — mentally as well as physically — to reach for the ultimate prize.

"There's only one place to go," Barnes said, referring to gold. "Now I've got to figure out if I can come back and take that next step."



Harry Barnes

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