



File photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton Fencing Club coach Jose Hernandez (right) recently took top honours in men's epee at the OCC championships.

Local fencing coach tops men's epee class at OCC championship

The Milton Fencing Club has its first OCC champion.

Jose Hernandez — a native Mexican who's now coaching the upstart group — turned back all 18 male epee challengers at the day-long competition in Waterloo May 11.

The seasoned swordsman struck a major blow for the first-year club's reputation by going undefeated during the marathon showcase. A perfect preliminary round was quickly followed up with championship gold.

Hernandez toppled an adversary from Toronto 15-10 to clinch first place — actually delivering a more convincing win than their initial robin-robin bout, that was decided by a single point.

But his stiffest test came in the semifinals, when Oakville's Kyle Foster mounted a 7-3 advantage and looked poised to advance. But Hernandez stepped up his aggressiveness and eventually out-duelled

his regional rival 15-11.

The closest any locally-associated fencer had come to claiming OCC gold before this was when Miltonian Stephen Willson — another driving force behind the new club — struck silver in 2001.

Meanwhile, 17-year-old newcomer Alex Marchant finished 16th in the men's epee division in a highly credible debut.

Also in her very first tournament, 14-year-old Samantha Stubbins captured bronze in the women's under-15 class — dropping a competitive 15-9 decision to the golden girl. Adding to the medal haul with a silver in junior men's epee was 14-year-old Vadim Shelekhov.

"We definitely had a great day," said Willson. "The club's gaining momentum."

OCC results marked the latest chapter in a successful year-one campaign for the Milton Fencing Club.

In late March, Milton took four

firsts at the Guelph Mini Meet. Doing the honours were novice Sean Mitchell, junior James Greenland-Perry, women's master Penny McLaren and men's master George Daunt.

Before that, Daunt grabbed the bronze in the Canadian Modern Pentathlon Winter Championships in Calgary while Dmitri Zaretsky secured an amazing eighth-place finish in the fiercely challenging provincial championships in Toronto.

The Milton Fencing Club — which has doubled its membership to more than two dozen members since its inception last fall — meets Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. at Brookville Community Centre, while beginner classes are held Mondays from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Milton Seniors' Activity Centre.

Those interested in getting involved with the club are asked to call Stephen Willson at (905) 876-9906.

Reding girls go unbeaten in soccer

Bishop Reding's girls soccer squads have high hopes for the playoffs.

Both the juniors and seniors went undefeated through the regular season — and gave up a measly two goals between them.

The Royals' younger contingent wasn't scored on at all in four outings, and punctuated an unblemished 4-0 campaign with Wednesday's 1-0 whitewash of Georgetown.

Cassie Berghammer was between the pipes for all four shutouts this year, while Maura and Mia Fazio and Jamie Greenfield have shouldered most of the offensive load — accounting for the majority of the nine goals scored. The juniors beat Georgetown and Christ the King twice each.

Meanwhile, BR's seniors have been nearly as domi-

nant with a 4-0-1 record. Their lone tie was a 2-2 stalemate with Acton, which was followed up with Wednesday's 4-0 blanking of Georgetown.

Abby Daigle has been rock solid in net for the seniors, and has received exceptional defensive support from Krista Lenardon and Ashley Grant.

Up front, Amy DiPalma has been a consistent scoring threat and tallied twice in the regular-season ending tilt. Also denting the twine were Valerie Fazio and Erinn Greenfield.

The two teams will kick off the playoffs with a double-header at BR Wednesday afternoon. The seniors will play first and were tentatively scheduled to face Christ the King at press time yesterday, while the juniors were expected to battle White Oaks. Competition begins at 3:30 p.m.

Royals cap season with narrow win

Bishop Reding's baseball team punctuated the regular season with a 1-0 squeaker over White Oaks Thursday afternoon in Oakville.

Tim Kirk scored in the bottom of the seventh — on a Reg Taylor RBI single — to cap a thoroughly

entertaining season finale, while pitchers Cory Hageman, Matt Tales and Liam Tennant combined for a two-hitter.

Tales — arguably the team's most valuable player thus far — had the lion's share of the mound

work, with four strong innings.

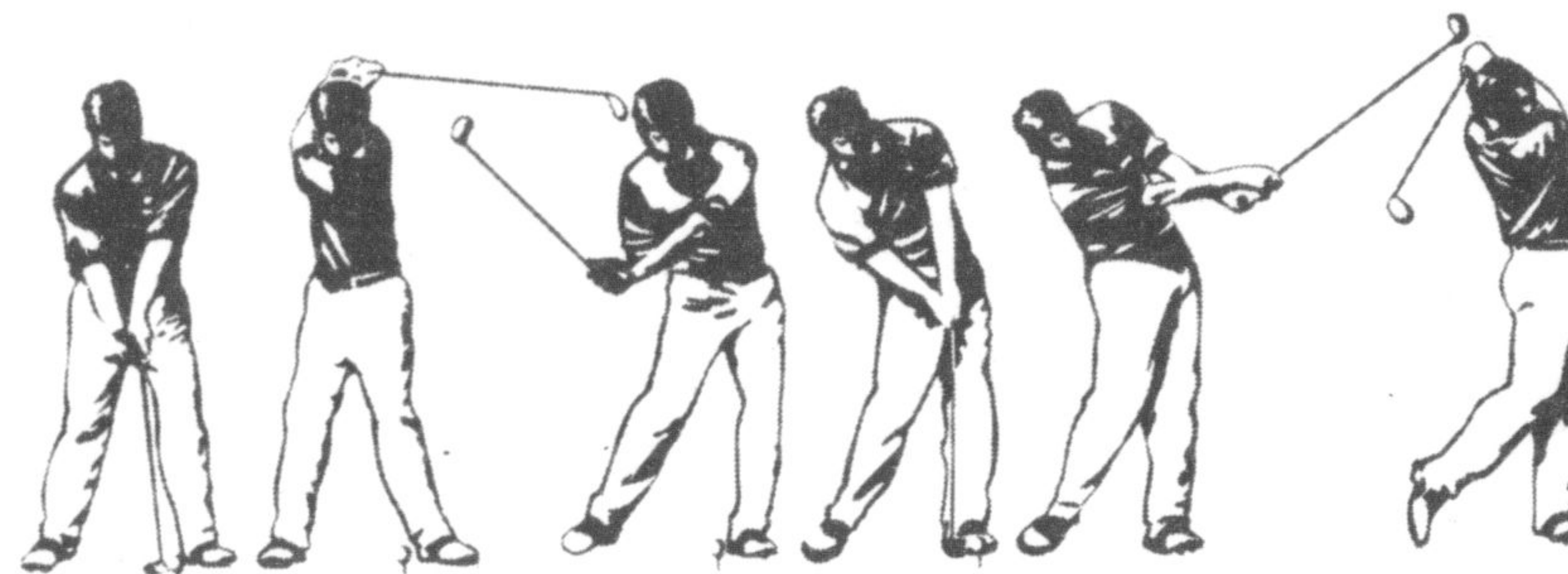
The narrow victory gave the Royals a 5-2 record and second place in Halton's Volpe Division — which affords them a first-round bye and home-field advantage for Thursday's quarterfinals.



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