

Marauders deliver inspired effort in loss to the Mega-City Maddogs

By MURRAY TOWNSEND
Special to The Champion

If ever there was a game in which a team deserved a better fate, it was Saturday night at Birchmount Stadium in the Milton Marauders 21-6 loss to the Mega-City Maddogs.

The team put forth an inspired effort in the wake of the previous game, a big loss in Kitchener. They came to play, and looked like it.

Everything would go right until it went wrong on offense, which may sound odd, but it was like being in a car race, battling your way to the front several times and then getting a flat tire each time.

The Marauders got a flat tire on the first play of the game, fumbling on the first snap. Five plays later they got it back on a fumble recovery by Michael Ward, and then six plays later gave up an interception in which Mega-City took the ball into the end zone for a touchdown.

Milton fumbled on the kickoff return and then David Joseph got it right back for the Marauders on the Maddogs first play from scrimmage. Slippery Steve Lubin, who picked up 89 yards on the game, was breaking off runs of 10 and 11 yards at a time, helped out by Sean Faulknor battling for every inch of field, and a first down catch by Marco Pereira from Ryan McGill.

That set up a field goal by Stefan Linder from 42 yards out, that would have been good from 62.

A big kickoff return allowed Mega-City a short field in which to add another score. A couple of series later they picked up a fumble recovery and ran it into the end zone to go up 21-3, and end their scoring for the day well before half time. Milton added a 37-yard field goal by Linder in the second half.

The story of the game for the Marauders was their defense. Stu Gilbert was sensational, playing as if somebody had taken away his favourite teddy bear, and that he was thinking it was probably the Mega-City quarterback.

He was after him all game, earning three hurries, a knockdown, a fumble recovery and six tackles.

Linebacker Peter Hummel acted as if he was taking it personally that any Maddog running back would have the nerve to think they were going to get by him. He had several big solo tackles, and was helped out by Joseph and Mark Dow, who seemed to feel the same.

Jay MacPhail recovered a fumble and Will Gearin, a fumble magnet, recovered yet another one.

It was more common for Mega-City to gain zero or negative yardage on a running play than it was for them to pick up five or

more yards.

"The defense played a great football game," noted head coach Barry Emo, "but the offense failed to get it done. Unfortunately, that seems to be a characteristic of this team. It's the offense some games, the defense in others."

"I'm very proud of them," he added. "They rose up off a loss and showed character. That's the type of thing that brings a team together."

Emo was steaming at the officials during the game and defensive co-ordinator Al Collver was ejected from the game with seconds remaining for protesting too much.

"The officiating was the worst I've seen in 30 years in football," said Emo, citing several examples. "We will be protesting it to the league."

Quarterback Ryan McGill had a gutsy effort, forced to play with a stress fracture in his leg because the other quarterback, Dustin Blair, wasn't available.

McGill had to be carried off the field in the fourth quarter when he passed out from the pain.

The Marauders face Markham in their next contest at Milton District High School Saturday at 3 p.m.

Marlins shine at provincials

David Dimitrov free-styled his way to a hefty hardware haul at the recent junior provincial long-course swim championships in Brantford.

The 11-year-old led the Milton Marlins with three medal-winning performances — all in freestyle competition. His best efforts were reserved for the grueling 400m race, in which he struck silver with a time of 5:07.08.

Finishes of 1:06.88 and 2:27.50 in the 100 and 200m events were both good enough to take the bronze. He also cracked the top-five in the 50m free (4th, 30.62s), 50m butterfly (4th, 34.48s) and 100m butterfly (5th, 1:20.37).

Dimitrov helped the 11-and-under boys contingent — rounded out by Alex Davis, Brent Burke and Evan Ries — place fifth in the 200m medley relay and seventh in the 200m freestyle relay.

Davis showed strongly in individual competition as well, with three top-eight efforts. The 11-year-old's top performance came in the 200m breaststroke, which he swam to a fifth-place finish. He took sixth in the 50m breaststroke and seventh in the 100m breaststroke.

Among the girls, 13-year-old Jessica Switzer's star shone brightest with four top-10 showings — including a sixth in the 100m breaststroke and seventh in the 200m breaststroke. Kim Galvin, 14, also cracked the top-10 in individual competition, doing so with a 10th place effort in the 200m freestyle. She combined with Erynn Mayes, Michelle Claessens and Rachel Robinson to place seventh and ninth in the 16 and 17-year-old girls 200m freestyle relay and 200m medley relay respectively.

Also at provincials were James Bramley, Jacqueline Clarke, Laura Doherty, Laura Prusha and Aaryn Fraser.

Famous Seelster prevails at Flamboro

By SANDRA SNYDER
Special to The Champion

Famous Seelster extended his win streak to three with an Ontario Sires Stakes record-equalling performance in Gold Elimination action at Flamboro Downs Friday afternoon.

The Bill Budd trainee delivered a classic come-from-behind effort to score a 1:52.1 win — matching the three-year-old pacing colt OSS mark set last year at Flamboro by Pacific Titan.

Leaving from post three Miltonian Mike Saftic settled the Rustler Hanover colt fourth on the rail and watched as Killer Rabbit set a sharp early pace, hitting the quarter-mile marker in :27 and the half in :55.1.

As the colts headed up the backstretch for the second time, Saftic sent Famous Seelster after the lead and was three-wide as

the field passed the 1:23.2 three-quarter point.

On top by four lengths at the head of the stretch, Saftic and Famous Seelster poured on the power down the lane, leaving the rest of the field reaching for their binoculars as they hit the wire 11 lengths on top.

Stonebridge Premio, owned by Robert Waxman of Ancaster, closed well to place second and pacesetter Killer Rabbit held on for third.

C And I Siegel Racing Stable Ltd. of Brooklyn, NY, and John Fodera of Staten Island, NY, acquired Famous Seelster at the Spring Mixed Sale for \$100,000 and with Friday's win the colt has already returned more than two-thirds of his purchase price in just four starts.

Nine races later HBFS Storm scored the second fastest elimination win of the evening for trainer Bill Robinson and owner-breeders HBF Corporation of Farmington Hills, MI. The Native Born colt withstood a tough trip up the outside to score a 1:53.3 win over pacesetter Winning Breed and Bill Budd's other entry, Village Blitz.

Randy Waples drove HBFS Storm to his second Gold Elimination win of the season, which boosted the colt's bankroll to \$134,056 in 15 starts this season.

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