



Photo by BRYON JOHNSON

Decaire's Northmen advance

Miltonian Matt Decaire (left) guards Brampton counterpart Dus Nanticoke during first-round Jr. A lacrosse action. Decaire's Orangeville Northmen put the finishing touches on a best-of-seven sweep by outlasting Brampton 13-10 Sunday evening in Brampton. Decaire picked up a couple of assists in the series-clinching victory. Orangeville's second-round opposition will likely come from Toronto Beaches, who as of last night led Peterborough three games to one.

Marauders blanked

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**
Special to The Champion

It took one play to ruin the Milton Marauders' day.

To make matters worse, it was their first play from scrimmage in the game. A Markham Raider picked off a pass, at Milton's 11-yard line and returned it for a touchdown.

That was all they needed in an 8-0 victory Saturday afternoon at Milton District High School. The other point was a rouge on a punt late in the game.

The Marauders were the masters of their own fate in this game. Mind you, they did appear to score when Steve Lubin got to about the one centimeter line. Coach Barry Emo was sure it was across the goal line after viewing it in person, talking to Lubin, and watching it again on tape. "Half his body was across the goal line. Unless that football was a suppository, it was in the endzone," he stressed.

Milton didn't have a problem putting together drives — they just had problems finishing them.

Fumbles and interceptions put an end to several promising marches up the field. Emo uses the hockey analogy where when a player is struggling, he's said to be squeezing the stick too tightly. He added, "We're great at moving into the red zone, but once we get there, we tighten up on that stick. It's a growing thing, we'll come out of it down the road."

Since they don't get an opportunity to score very often, the players want to make the most of it, explained Emo, putting too much pressure on themselves to make the big play instead of it being second nature.

To that end, there were still some big plays from the offense. Newcomer Craig Hudak made a great catch in his debut with

the Marauders and looked as if he had been playing all season.

Eric Snyder made the catch of the season on a third down pass from Dustin Blair, Marco Pereira made a determined grab for a first down, Rohan Galloway had some big plays out of the backfield, and Steve Lubin was his usual elusive self adding another 100-yard game to his collection.

The defense was once again sensational. Markham only had one first down in the first half, either giving up the ball or being forced to punt on seven of their first eight possessions.

David Joseph had a couple of fumble recoveries to go along with a mess of tackles that has him second in the league in that category. Peter Hummel had a fumble recovery that moved him back up to the top of the league, tied with teammate Will Gearin.

Adam MacPhail, converted from offense, was a force on defense in the linebacker position, delivering some punishing blows, and Rayon Walker came up with some big hits as well as some good return yardage on kicks and punts. And Norm Collver sometimes doesn't get enough credit for his play, often playing on the line both on offense and defense.

But, it was Stu Gilbert who had one of the gutsiest games perhaps ever by a Marauder. He wasn't supposed to even be playing, but he did, literally until he dropped. Unable to even raise his arm earlier this week at practice, he staggered up to the line each time and made play after play. It was only until he could no longer get up off the ground that he came out of the game.

The Marauders now sit at 1-5. They travel to North Bay Saturday.

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