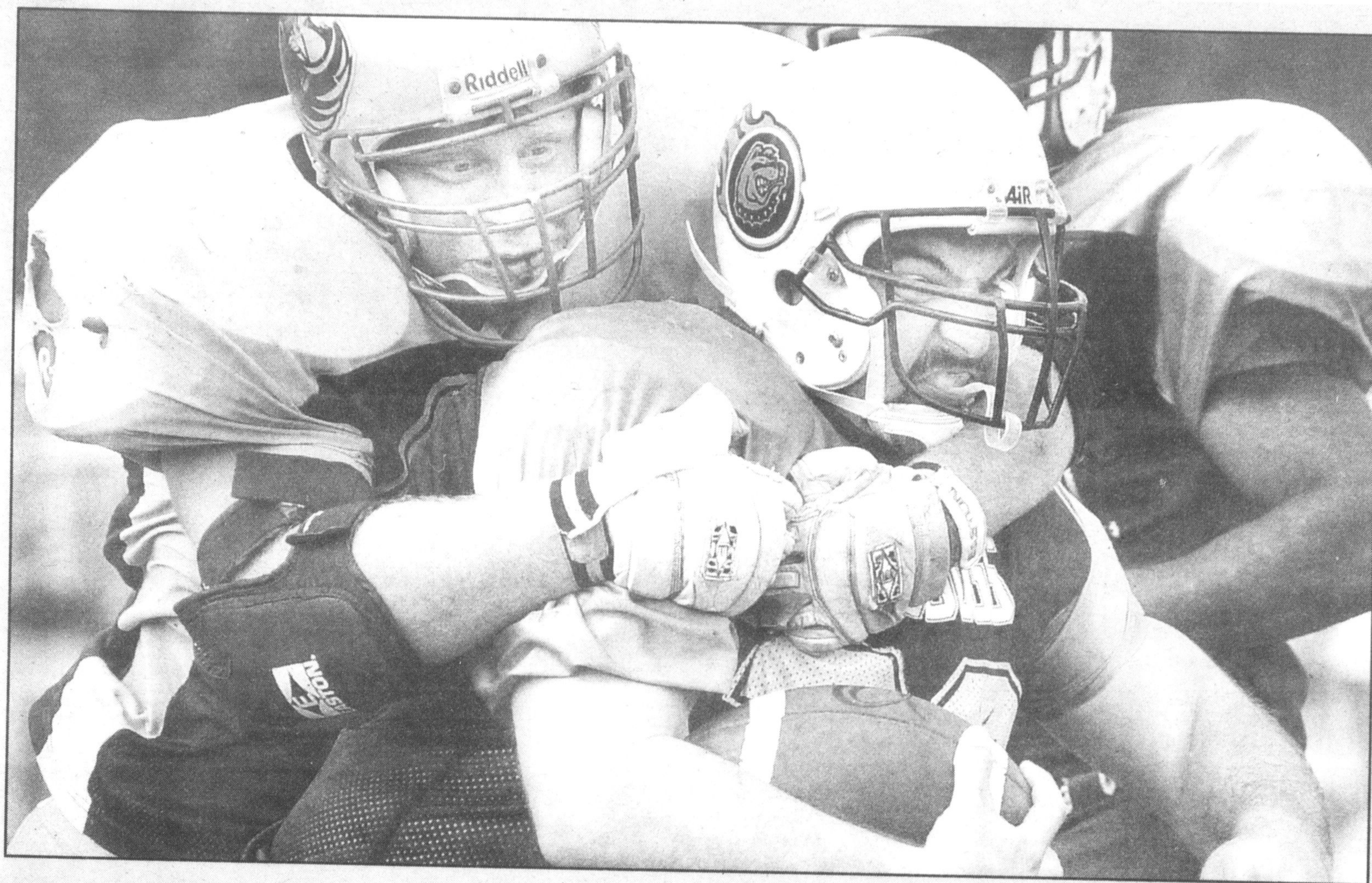




SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY JULY 29, 2003



'Goin' along for the ride

Mega City Maddogs' Josh Murdock carries Milton Marauder defender Mark Dow on his back before eventually getting hauled down during regular season-ending play at Milton District High School Saturday afternoon. Despite a spirited effort — particularly from the defense — the host Marauders were edged 10-6. For full results, see page 19.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Local blueliner among IceHawks' first signings

New coach/GM expects big things from 18-year-old Novak

By JON KUIPERIJ
The Champion

Miltonian Mike Novak and two former teammates with the Toronto Young Nationals are the newest members of the Milton IceHawks Jr. A hockey club.

The team officially announced the signings of Novak, Mike Sansom and Julian Sarraino last week, although Novak confirmed he agreed to terms with the IceHawks in late June.

Novak, who played three regular-season and two playoff con-

tests with Milton last year, said playing junior hockey in his hometown is quite meaningful to him.

"It adds a lot of excitement and makes you want to win just that much more," said the 18-year-old defenceman.

IceHawks general manager and head coach George Dupont expects a lot from the trio in the 2003-04 campaign.

"They all have great attitudes, they all work hard and they all seem like great team guys," Dupont said. "We expect them to come in and contribute right away."

Standing tall at 6'3 and 190 lbs., Novak said he plays a physical game and considers himself a defensive-minded blueliner. The Bishop Reding High School student did not record a point in his five games with the Merchants last year but estimated he scored 15 goals with the Young Nats.

"He probably should have been on the team (full-time) last

year," said Dupont. "He skates well, he's got a great attitude, he's enthusiastic. He's a pretty good individual and player."

Sarraino cracked the 100-point plateau on left wing with Toronto last season, notching 49 goals and 52 assists in 68 games. His nickname of "Scrappy" came because he is always on the puck and works hard, Dupont said.

Sansom is a versatile forward with the ability to play centre or wing and is "committed at both ends", according to Dupont. The 5-9, 165-lb. Sansom scored 30 goals and added 45 assists in 68 games for Toronto last year.

Dupont said the team has identified some of the top talent coming out of midget and hopes to recruit several more players in the upcoming weeks. The IceHawks' training camp opens next month.

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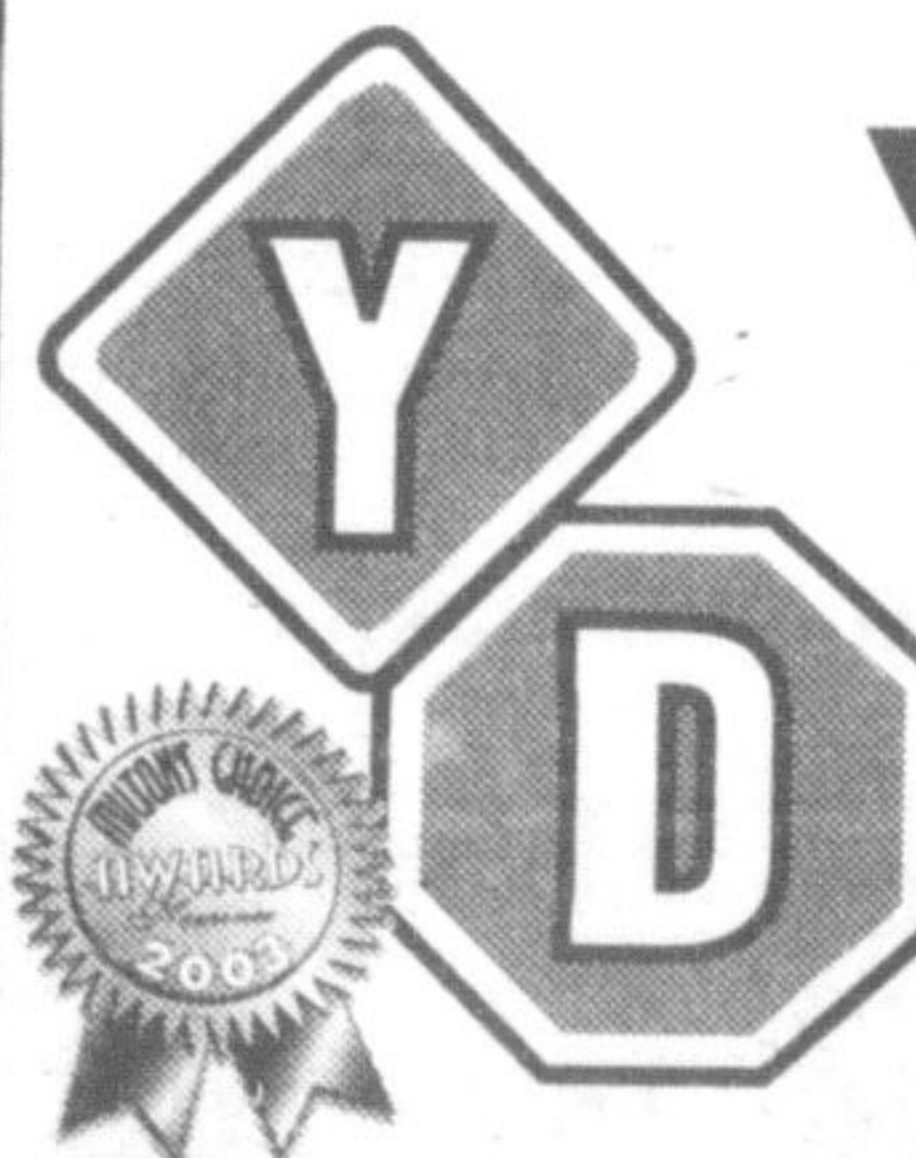
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