



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

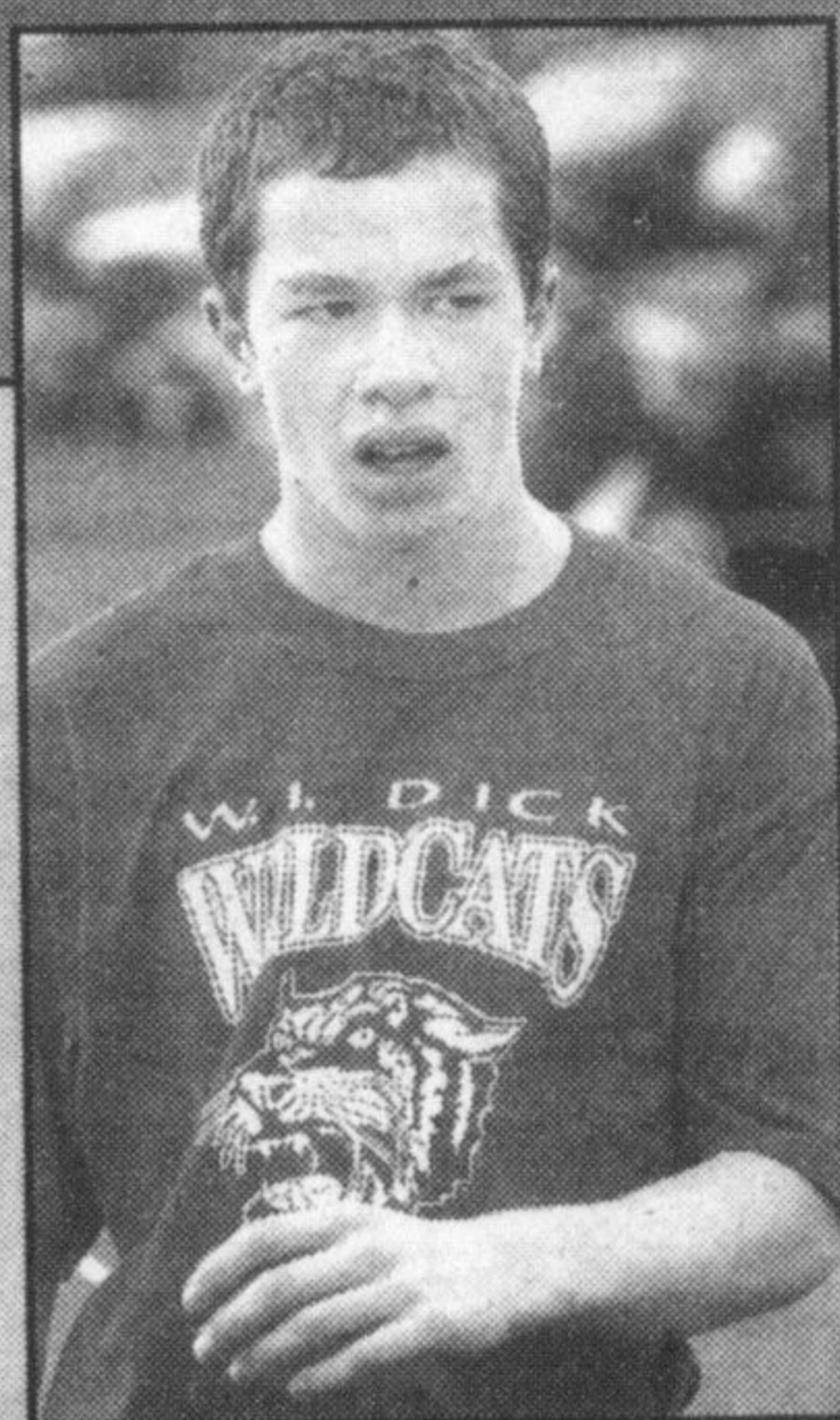
TUESDAY OCTOBER 28, 2003



Ready, set ... GO!

Intermediate girls head out on the course during Wednesday's Halton Cross-Country Championships at Sherwood Forest Park in Burlington. At right, W.I. Dick Wildcat Brad Hoy races to victory in the senior boys division. The perennial powerhouse runner won Haltons for the second straight year, and has taken top honours in North Halton for five years running. Brookville's Dylan Innes finished second among the atom boys in junior championship competition.

Photos by PETER C. McCUSKER



Inspiring win for IceHawks

By STEVE LeBLANC

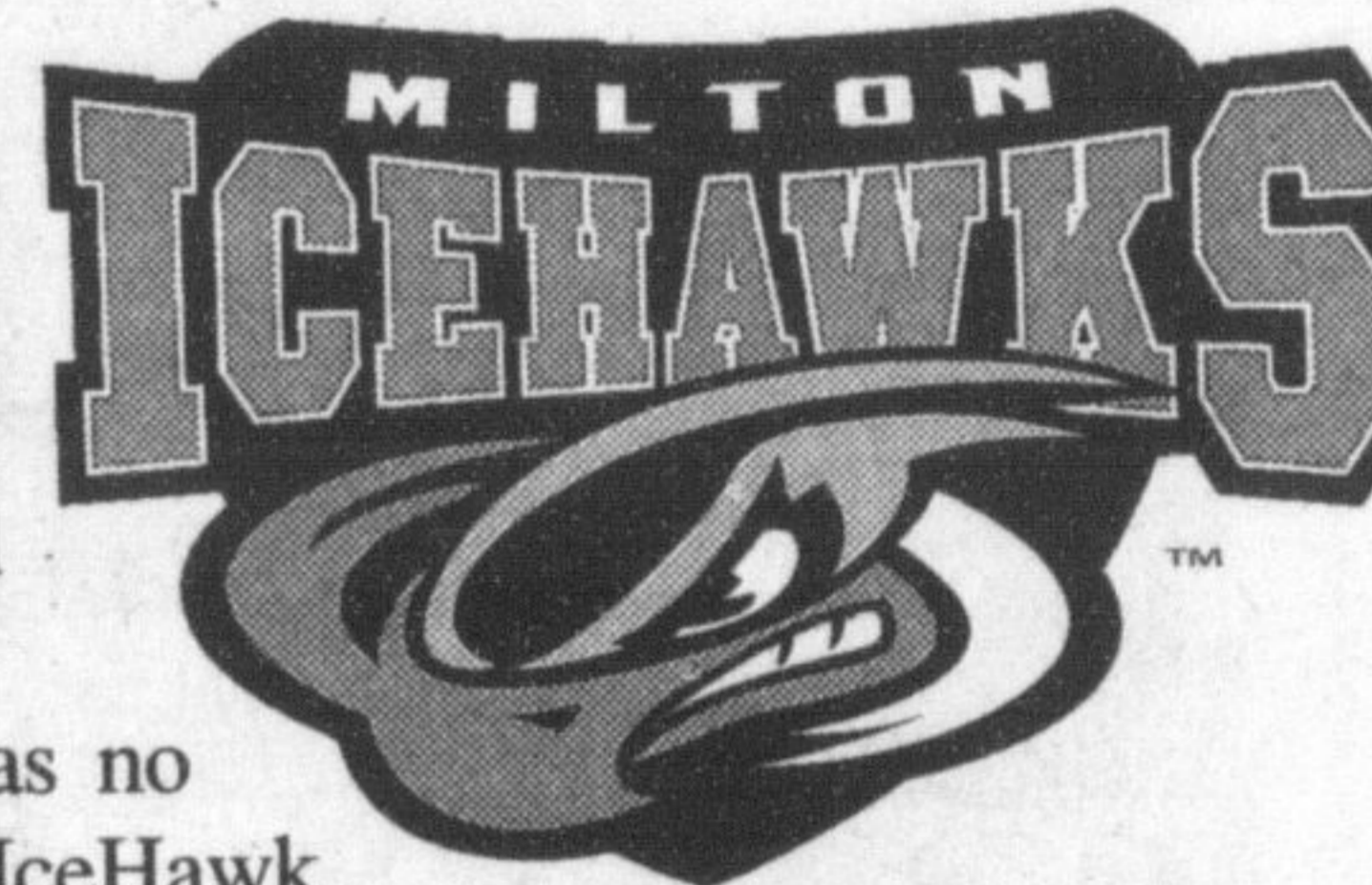
The Champion

The IceHawks took another beating in Oakville Saturday night, only this time not on the scoreboard.

In a that's-one-to-build-on performance at IceSports Arena, Milton weathered all sorts of punishment — some of downright savage variety — but persevered to upset the intimidation-minded Blades 4-3. The comeback victory was the first against a top-three opponent this season, and was all the more inspiring since it came on the heels of Friday's 7-4 collapse against Hamilton.

"It's pretty satisfying, especially after last night. That (Friday's loss) was really disappointing, but good teams find a way to bounce back," said captain Lee Swallow, who assisted on fellow veteran Ryan Silveira's game winner seven minutes into the third period. "We'll definitely be looking to build on this and get on a roll."

Added head coach George Dupont, "A lot of guys stepped up and played their best game of the year, and when you compete hard good things happen."



While Saturday's win was no doubt a surprise to many IceHawk critics, it wasn't to Dupont — who felt his team had more of the quality scoring chances in two previous losses to Oakville. "Tonight we got the bounces," he explained.

Victory hopes looked rather bleak through the early going, as rookie winger Mike DeMarchi went down with a bruised ankle in the opening minute and the IceHawks coughed up a lead established by Dean Strong.

But Strong and newly-acquired defenceman Chris Cloutier would pot second-period equalizers, while their teammates showed plenty of grit in absorbing numerous cheap shots — including two vicious hits from behind to veteran blueliner Andrew Bonello. Strong's second of the night, a goal-mouth deposit, snapped an 0-for-20 powerplay funk.

Jamie Flury blanked the hosts through the final 32 minutes of play and turned back 32 shots overall — including nine straight in the final frame — to record his biggest win as an IceHawk.

At home against Hamilton Friday, Milton spoiled a fundamentally-sound start with a complete letdown in the second period — giving up five unanswered goals for a wake-up call defeat. Jonathan Ornelas notched his 12th and 13th goals of the year, while Julian Sarraino and Matthew French chipped in singles.

While hardly to blame for the loss, Kain Tisi was far from his usual sharp self and got the hook for the first time this year.

The weekend split kept Milton stationed in fifth at 11-7.

IceHawk notes: Ornelas now leads the team in goal scoring and should he continue building on a strong season start, could be a dark-horse contender for the Western Conference's Most Improved Player award ... Cloutier, 20-year-old defenceman with both size and skill, was picked up from Port Hope last week. He had 18 points and 89 penalty minutes in 11 games upon being traded ... The IceHawks have an easy week ahead, with a trip to Brampton Thursday followed by Friday's home-ice tilt with Buffalo. Both games start at 7:30 p.m.

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Senior Royals dismantle Aquinas

Reding advances to quarterfinals in decisive fashion

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Bishop Reding's senior football team didn't so much advance to the tier two quarterfinals as bulldoze its way into them.

With the exception of a few penalties that delayed touchdowns, the Royals fired on all cylinders Friday afternoon to dismantle Oakville's St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders 30-0 in first-round playoff action.

"Having two touchdowns called back because of holding, we can't do that against Iroquois Ridge," stressed head coach Joe Jurus, looking ahead to this Friday's showdown with the unbeaten Wolfpack.

Nevertheless, BR's longtime skipper was quite pleased overall with the lopsided victory. In his first full game back from a severely sprained ankle, pivot Tim Kirk struck for a couple of lengthy touchdown

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JOE JURUS

passes — both to Marcas Gray — while Chuck Allen and Mike Rubino gained valuable real estate on the sweep.

Aquinas used a similar strategy with their ground attack, but to no avail — as Nick Parry and Mike Rego provided top-notch outside containment.

In fact, BR got credible contributions from up and down its defensive roster. Consequently, the Raiders didn't make it beyond their own 40-yard line until the tail end of the game and were never a legitimate threat to break the shutout.

Offensively, David Wynne stood out with a pair of fourth-quarter field goals — both around 35 yards — to add insult to injury down the stretch. He also converted all three touchdowns, including one delivered on a 25-yard scamper by Paul Leon.

Reding split its production equally between the two halves, and enjoyed key blocking when needed. Interceptions by Reg Taylor and Phil Fontaine served to further stifle the out-classed visitors.

"We're playing solid football these days," said Jurus. "If we can just cut down on the little mistakes, we've got a chance (against Iroquois Ridge)."

BR takes a three-game win streak into this Friday's quarterfinals, but remains a clear underdog against the pass-potent Wolfpack. The Royals kept things respectable in regular-season play — losing 22-9 — but will need to minimize Tom Henderson's seemingly unstoppable air strike if they hope to play the spoiler.

The quarterfinal tilt begins at 2 p.m. at Iroquois Ridge in Oakville.

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Milton Curling Club

has a limited number of positions for the upcoming curling season.



Individual positions are available for various age groups, abilities and times.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT

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