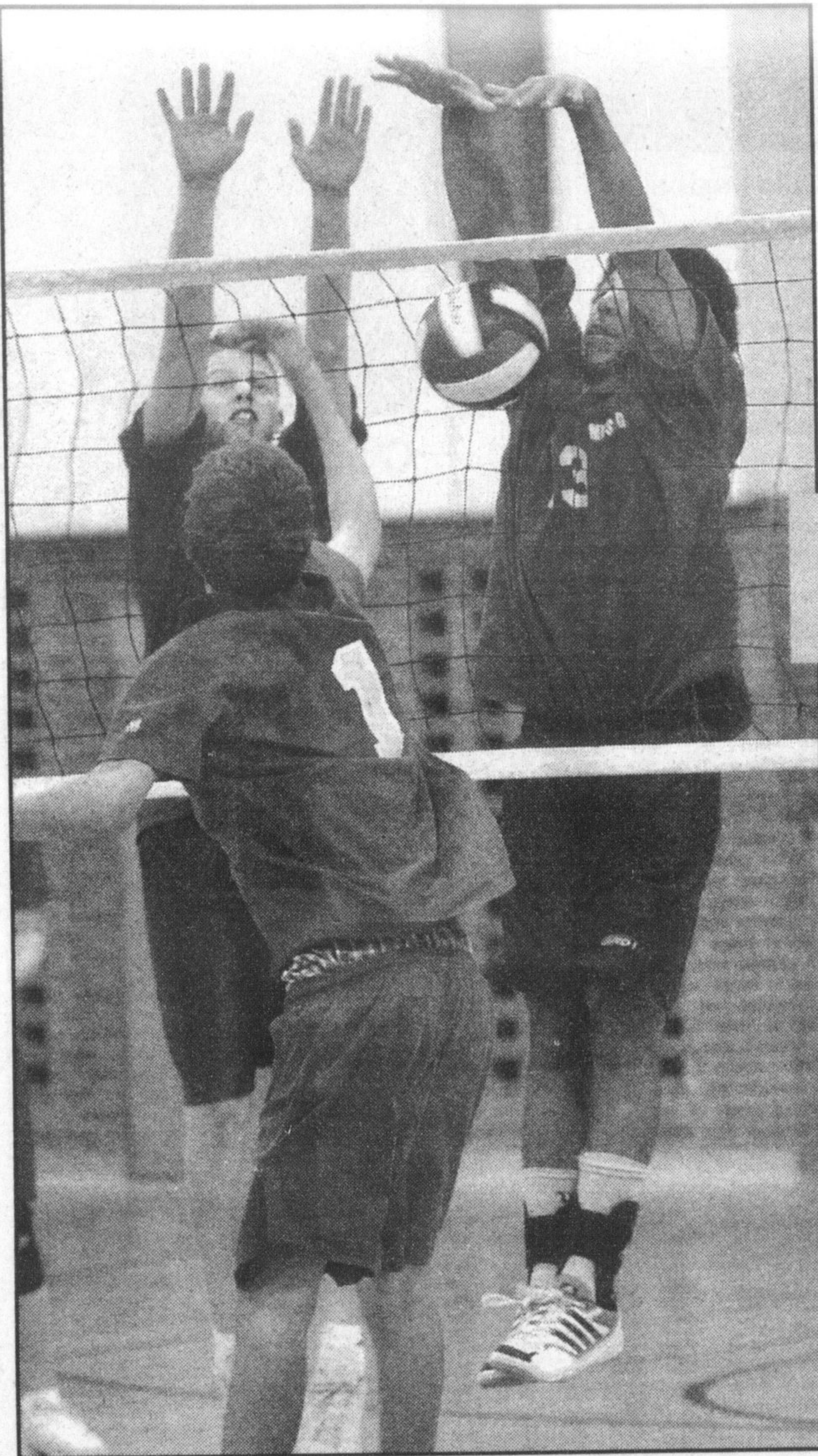


Sr. Mustangs suffer quick exit in quarterfinals



It's been said time and time again that the playoffs are a whole new season.

Milton District's senior boys volleyball team no doubt has a newfound respect for that age-old adage, after a quarterfinal humbling against the Nelson Lords Tuesday.

MD headed into the afternoon showdown as the clear favourite — having swept its Burlington guests four weeks earlier and finished second in Halton's Richardson Division at 6-2.

But building on an impressive regular

season just wasn't in the cards for the Mustangs, who followed up on a first-round bye with what would most kindly be referred to as a sub-par performance.

Hard-core critics would probably choose more disparaging remarks to describe MD's 25-19, 25-11 exit — which featured little in the way of intensity and was over in a mere 40 minutes.

Big hitter Cody Williams had trouble executing from the word go, while a few mental glitches by his fellow starters and fierce blocking by the opposition made the

difference in game one.

From there, the Mustangs fell into a 5-0 hole in their do-or-die clash and just couldn't recover.

MD had all sorts of difficulty with serves — both delivering their own and returning Nelson's — and was never in any kind of position to force a tie-breaker.

A couple of borderline calls against them didn't help matters either.

Overall, Andrew McKay was perhaps the biggest bright spot in the quarterfinals with a few nifty spikes.

Nelson's Alex Makreel attempts to spike one past Milton District defenders Andrew McKay (left) and Cody Williams during senior boys quarterfinal play at MD Tuesday afternoon. The Mustangs fell 25-19, 25-11.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Long driver just happy to be at worlds

This time around, just being there was enough.

Mandy De Fabrizio wasn't quite in top form at the recent ReMax World Long Drive Championships in Mesquite, Nevada. But a somewhat sub-par performance took a back seat to the excitement of simply being part of the international festivities.

And that's certainly understandable — given that before this past summer the 25-year-old Miltonian had never even entered any type of official golfing competition.

"It was pretty amazing just to be there, with all the fans and ESPN taping it," said De Fabrizio, who qualified for the world long drive showcase by virtue of a provincial title victory last month in Ajax. "It was an incredible experience."

Unfortunately, consistent 260-yard driving didn't put her anywhere near championship contention in Mesquite October 17 and 18.

She managed to stave off elimination through one stage of the



Mandy De Fabrizio

double-knockout event, but was bounced in round three and failed to crack the top-third of the 32-player class. She wound up somewhere between 12th and 24th, although exact placings weren't made available to non-finalists.

"It was pretty cold in the morning there," the local long driver recalled of conditions. "Not that that's an excuse. My efforts just weren't exactly what I wanted. But it was my first time out. A lot of the women had been there a few times already."

De Fabrizio — who sports an individual record drive of 281 yards — hopes to include herself in that seasoned world-class fraternity. And having won both the ReMax

and Iceman provincial titles in her inaugural year on the circuit, she seems more than capable of doing so.

"I'm definitely gunning to get back there (world championships). I was just happy to be part of it this time. Next year, hopefully, I can make a real impact."

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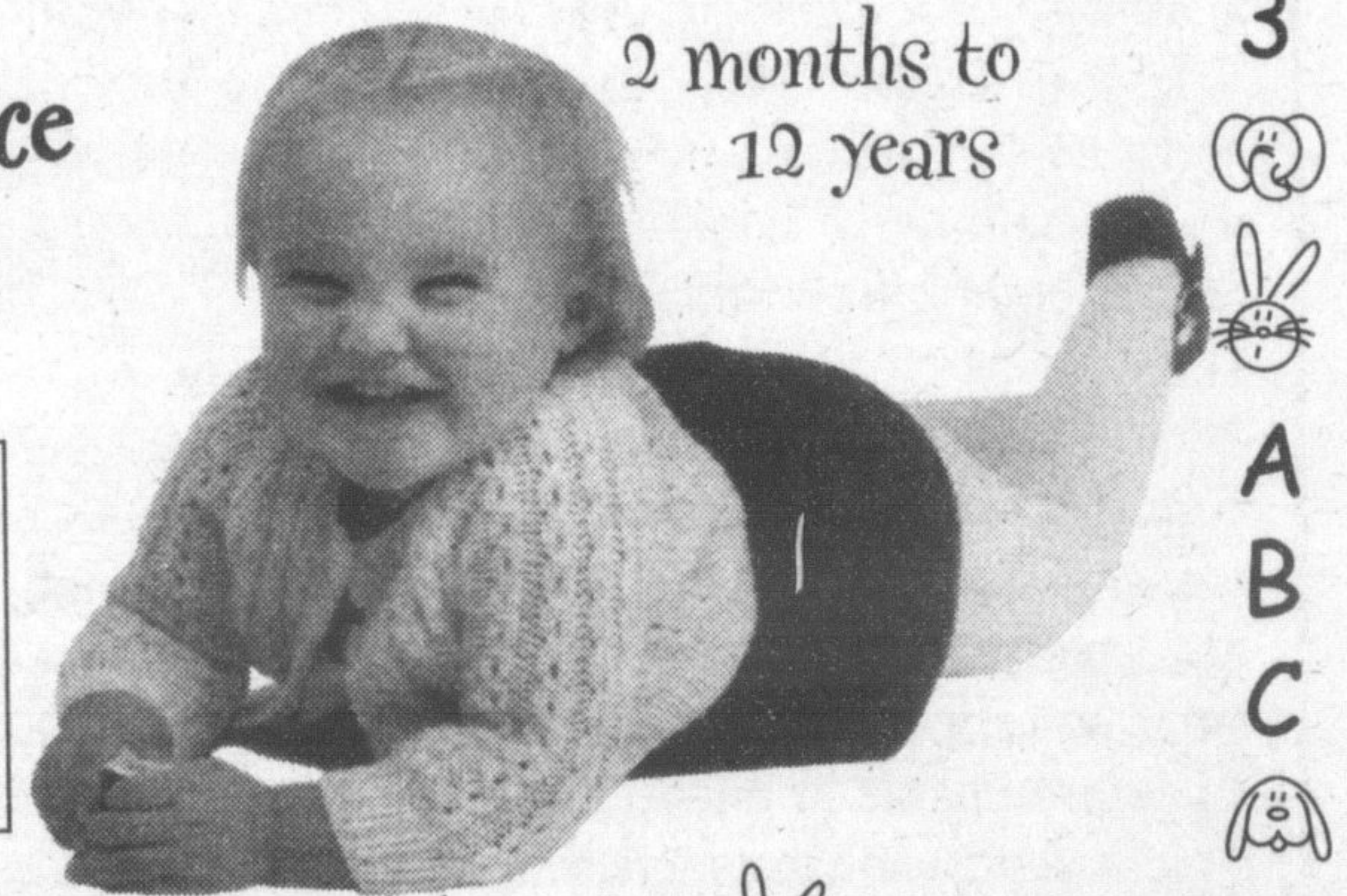
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