

Sports

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton Marauders running back Toritesju Okorodudu is pushed out of bounds by Oakville's Mike Dingsdale after a lengthy run during Saturday's Northern Football Conference clash at Milton District High School. Milton downed the Longhorns 17-13 to snap Oakville's 32-game regular-season winning streak.

Marauders halt Oakville streak

Milton hands 'Horns first loss in 33 games

By MURRAY TOWNSEND
Special to the Champion

Any questions about progress the Milton Marauders have made during the past three seasons were answered last weekend.

The Marauders, who lost 65-0 to the Northern Football Conference power Oakville Longhorns to open the 2002 season, avenged the loss in a big way Saturday at Milton District High School.

Playing in front of their largest-ever home crowd, the Marauders clipped the Longhorns 17-13, snapping Oakville's incredible regular-season winning streak at 32 games.

This was no ordinary victory, and this was no ordinary game. Every team in the league has been gunning for the Longhorns, who have won 11 straight league championships, and few have managed to even come close.

"Wow!" exclaimed ecstatic Milton all-star linebacker Wayne Sliwinski after the game. "It's absolutely fantastic, I can't put it into words. To go from a 2-6 team to beating the league champions..."

Speaking of absolutely fantastic, that's how Sliwinski played. The former Longhorn recovered two fumbles, and those weren't car crashes you heard on Saturday, that's just what it sounds like when Sliwinski hits somebody.

Even though, as Sliwinski said, many of the Oakville players are like brothers to him, it was a much more rewarding victory than winning every game so easily, as it often was with his former team. "This is what I came here for," he said, look-

ing around at the celebrations.

The Longhorns are an intimidating squad and, as Sliwinski says, they didn't win 11 straight championships by accident.

But it was Milton that was dominant in the first half, playing textbook football by marching patiently down the field with a strong running attack. A determined Steve Lubin would fight for every inch of ground, Jon Nedeljkovic was like a freight train, and Toritesju Okorodudu used his lightning speed and elusiveness to break off good gains. And when the Marauders needed it, Domenic Camastro would pinpoint a pass to an open receiver, usually Jamie Radway, slotback Craig Hudak, or fullback Mike Mallot.

And of course, the defense was outstanding once again, led by linebackers Sliwinski and David Joseph as well as defensive end Coho Millington,

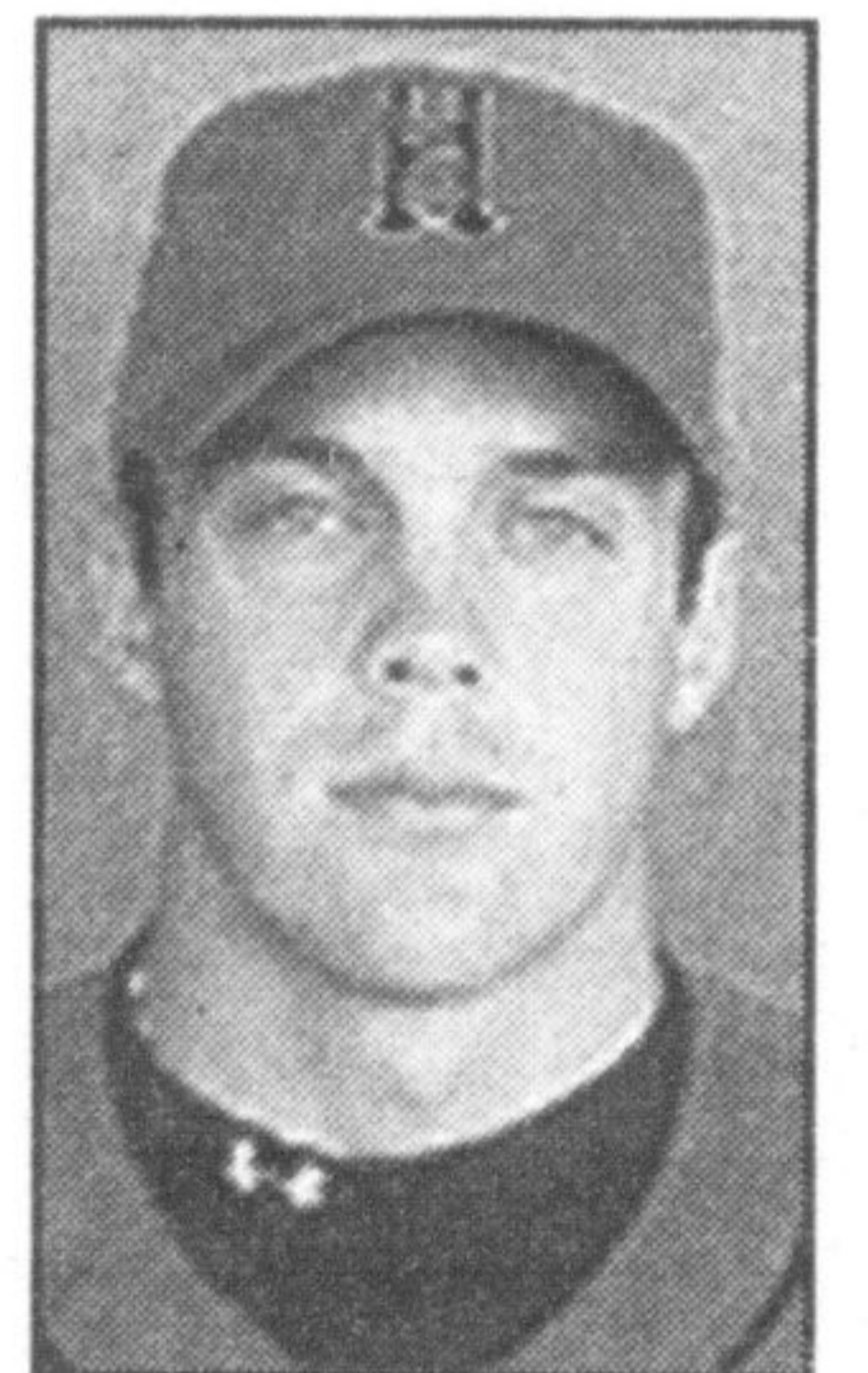
• see MILTON on page 23

Hill defeats Blue Jays for first career win

By JON KUIPERIJ
The Champion

Shawn Hill got his first major league victory, and most of Canada had an opportunity to watch it.

The 23-year-old right-hander, a Bishop Reding graduate, pitched into the sixth inning as the Montreal Expos downed the Toronto Blue Jays 6-4 Sunday in Puerto Rico, a game televised across Canada on Rogers Sportsnet.



Shawn Hill

Hill, a native of Mississauga who now resides in Georgetown, breezed through the opening five innings, allowing only one run on four hits.

He began to flag a bit, however, in the sixth inning, allowing Frank Menecchino, Orlando Hudson and Reed Johnson to reach base with nobody out.

Hill was then relieved by Claudio Vargas, who struck out Eric Hinske, induced a fly-out from Chris Gomez and fanned Alexis Rios to end the frame, leaving all three Jays runners stranded.

"(Claudio) got me out of that," Hill told reporters afterward, referring to Vargas' relief effort. "I might owe him. The whole team might owe him something for that."

Montreal then blew the game open in the bottom of the sixth, scoring four times to take a 6-1 lead.

With the win, Hill squared his record at 1-1 after a rocky major league debut last Tuesday in Philadelphia, when he allowed eight earned runs in less than three innings of work. He did, however, manage to twice strike out Phillies slugger Jim Thome.

Called up to the major leagues last month, Hill had a 5-6 record with a 2.87 earned-run average in 14 starts with the Eastern League's Harrisburg Senators — Montreal's AA affiliate club — this season.

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