

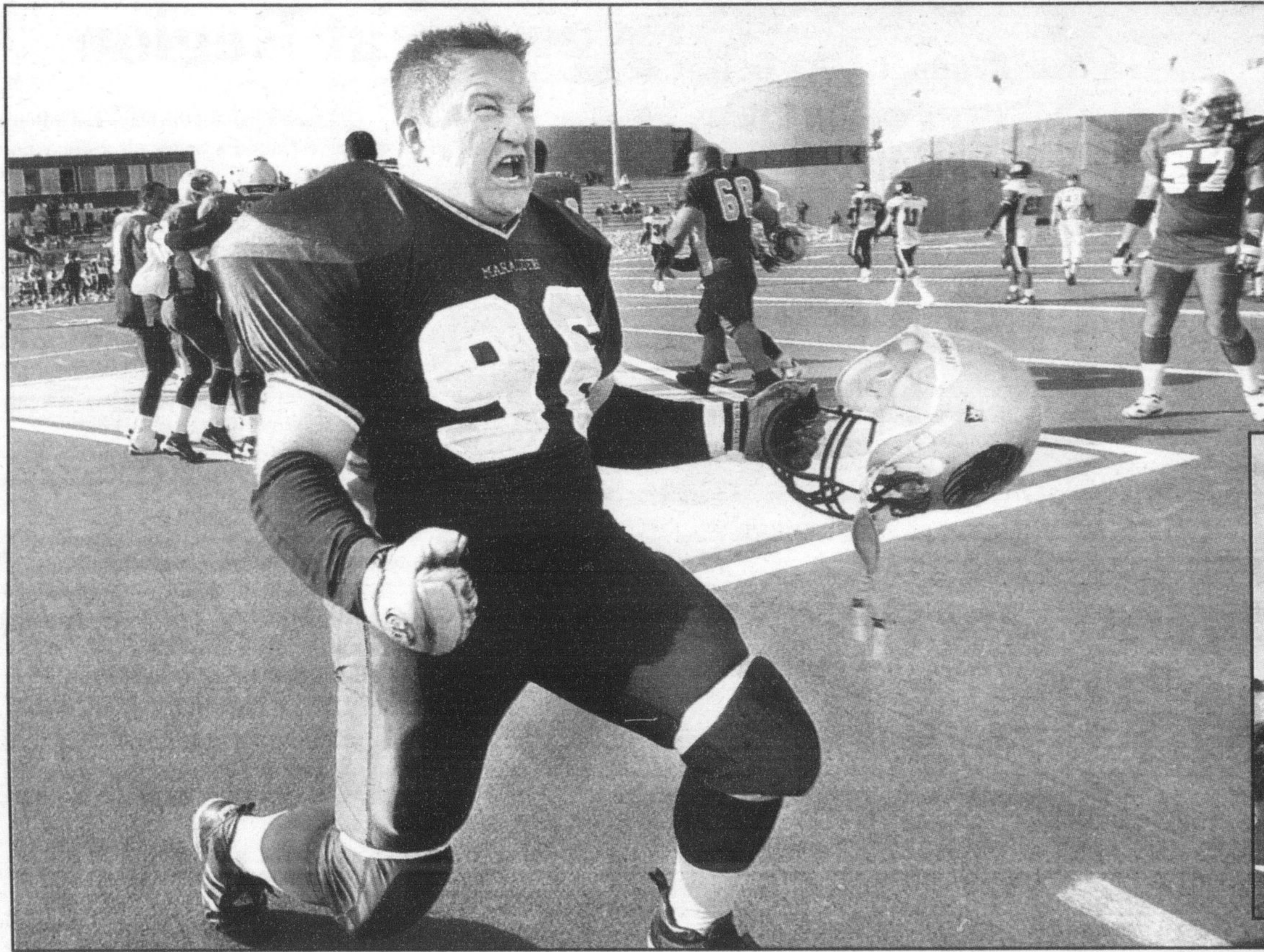


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A METROLAND COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER VOL. 145 NO. 59 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2004 \$1.00 (GST included) 40 PAGES "Using Communication to Build Better Communities"



## We are the champions!

Jason MacPhail (at left) celebrates winning the national title in Edmonton Saturday after his Marauders disposed of the Calgary Wolfpack 40-27. Below, head coach Barry Emo hoists the Canadian Major Football League title high while surrounded by his troops. See story and more photos on page 19.

Photos by IAN JACKSON/EPIC PHOTOGRAPHY



## Girl found safe after massive search

By **STEPHANIE THIESSEN**  
*The Champion*

Andrews Scenic Acres was the site of a huge celebration early yesterday morning when a little girl was reunited with her parents after a massive, eight-hour community search.

"We were late going to bed, but at least we were able to sleep well," said Bert Andrews, owner of Andrews Scenic Acres on No. 10 Sideroad.

North York resident Madeline Flanagan, 9, was found at about 1:30 a.m. yesterday about a quarter-kilometre from Andrews Scenic Acres, a pick-your-own farm the girl — called Katie by her family — had been visiting with her parents before wandering off at about 4:15 p.m. Sunday.

The little girl, who has Downs Syndrome, was

found safe and sound sleeping under a tree.

An estimated 300 volunteers gathered at the pick-your-own farm Sunday evening after word got out that Katie was missing. Among the volunteers were members of several Neighbourhood Watch groups, as well as members of the Andrews' church, Boston Presbyterian Church. Volunteers came from as far away as Kitchener and Hamilton.

"It's a success story," said Sgt. Jeff Corey of Halton Regional Police. "We're so fortunate that we can call upon the community for help and they deliver."

The volunteers joined the Halton Hills and Milton fire services, Halton EMS, the York, Toronto and Peel police services, the CN police and the Caledon OPP, plus police canine teams from Halton and Hamilton.

"It was absolutely fantastic," said Mr. Andrews'

wife, Lauraine, of the immediate show of support. "It was a phenomenal response."

Ms Andrews said she remembers yelling into the fields when the girl was first discovered missing, asking customers to help look, which they did.

Search organizers from Halton Police concentrated team efforts within a one-kilometre radius of the farm and conducted grid searches.

"Everyone plodded through in the dark and cold," Ms Andrews said. "They're all as stiff and sore as can be today."

Katie's parents first took part in the search and then took refuge inside the Andrews' house when darkness fell. Ms Andrews said she remembers hearing a voice on the radio of the officer with them saying, "We think we have her."

"The family was afraid and didn't want to hear  
• see **FAMILY** on page 2

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