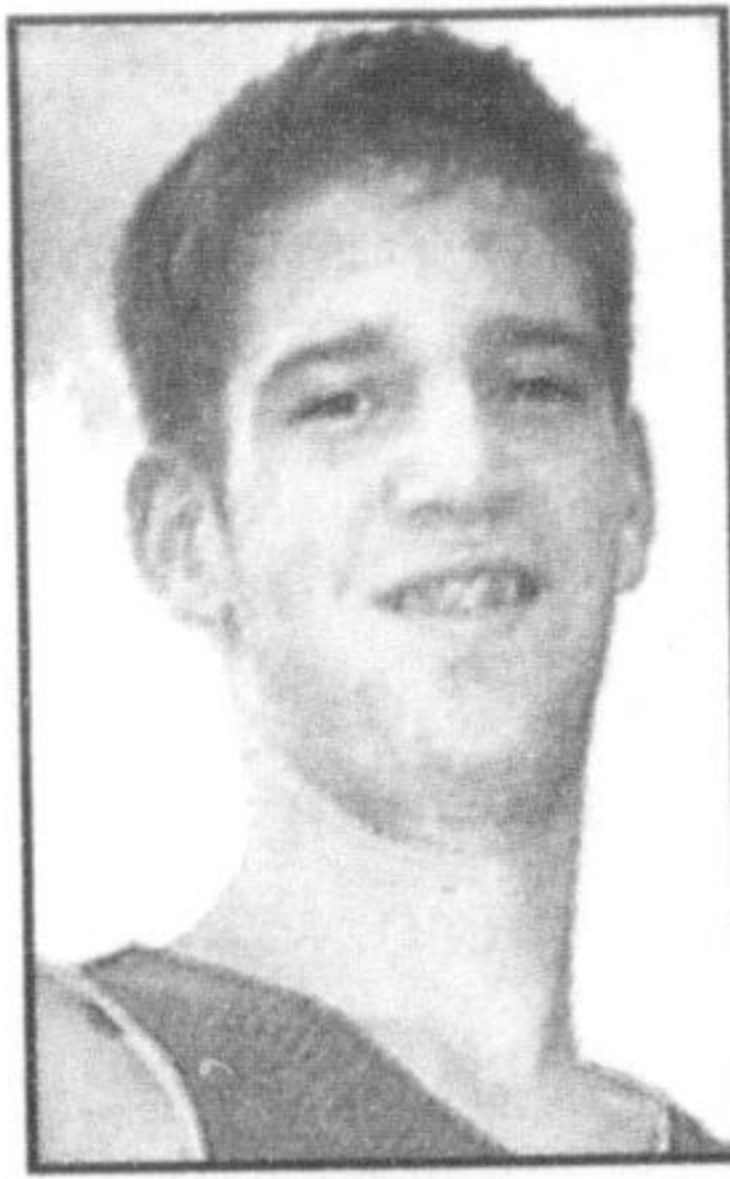


# Sports

sleblanc@haltonsearch.com



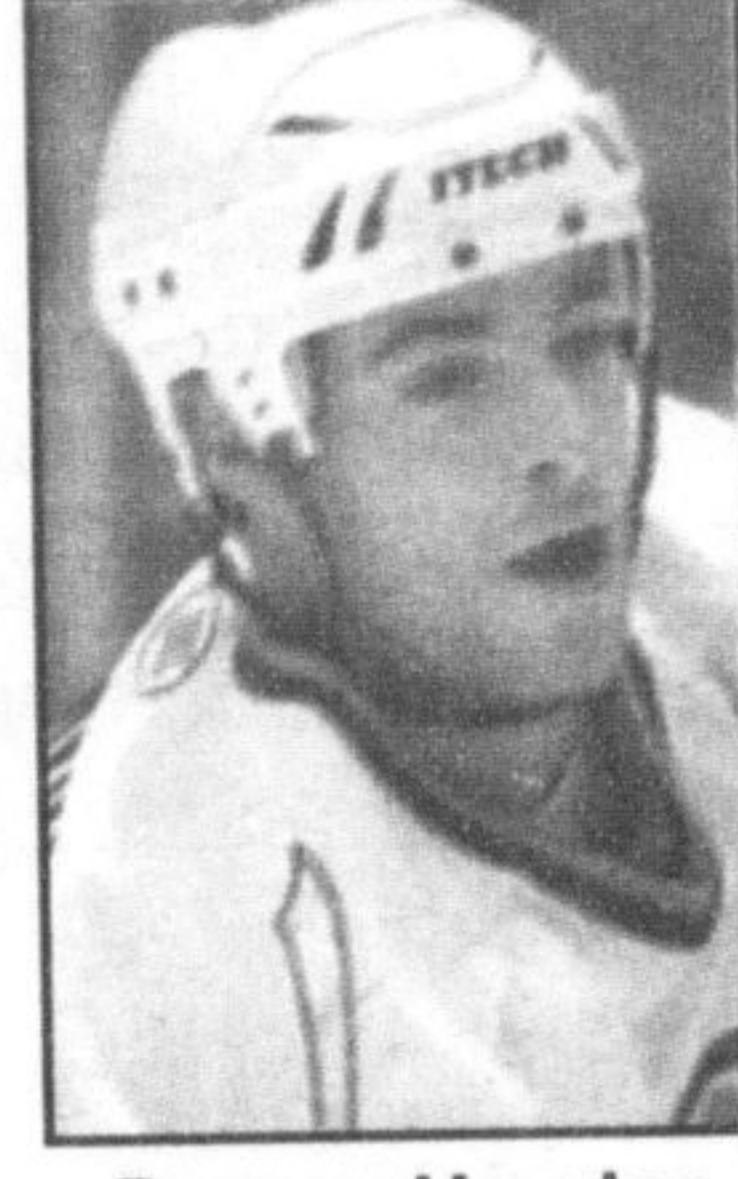
Ed Whitlock



Al Alilovic



Jennifer Porenta



Darren Haydar



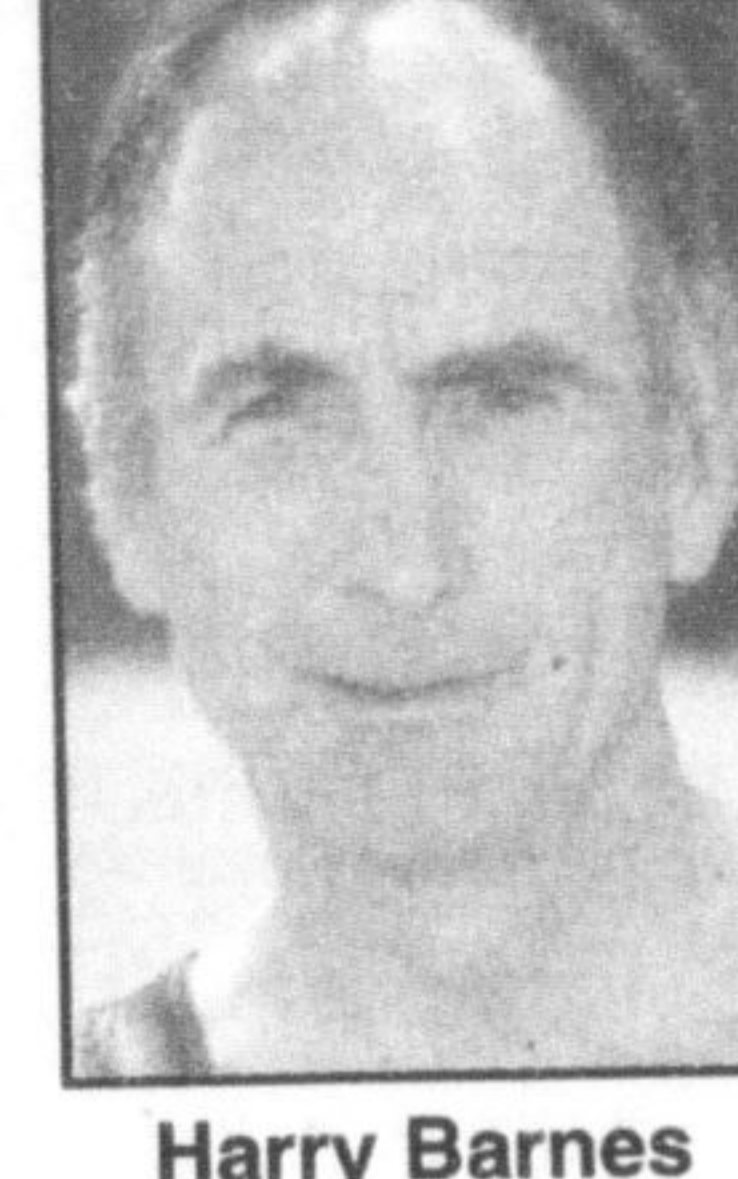
Ainsley Vince



Mike O'Shea



Nancy Cole-Hryciw



Harry Barnes



Luc Ouellette

## 2004 a stellar year for local athletes

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

It was another stellar year for Milton — one of the best sports towns in Ontario.

Local teams and individuals shone throughout the region, province, country and even the world. Here are some highlights from 2004 in Milton, with apologies to those who earned distinction but were unintentionally not included.

### Top team

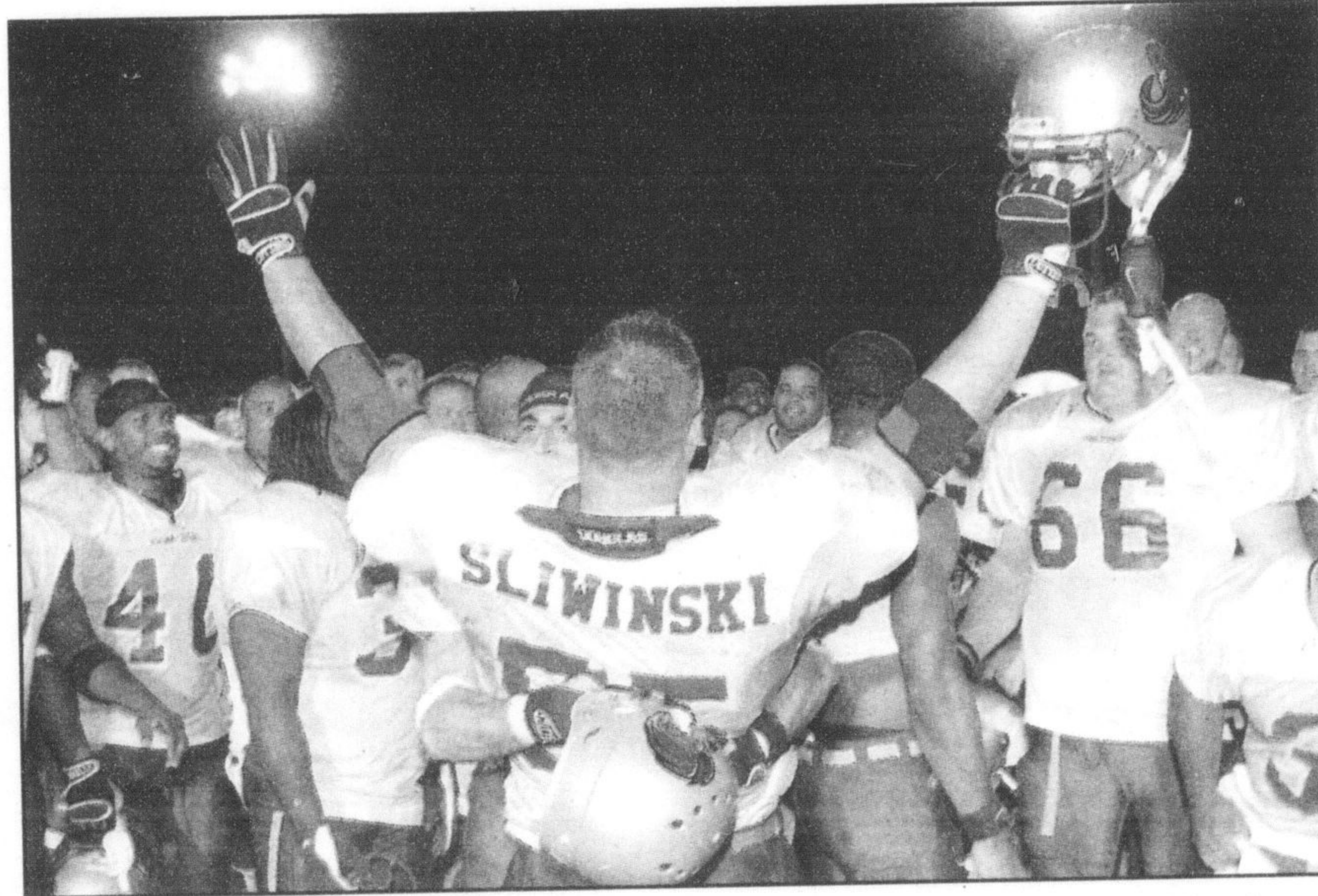
Delivering a monumental rags to riches story this year, the Marauders took it the whole nine yards — not only winning league gold with a dynasty-ending triumph over the perennial powerhouse Oakville Longhorns, but adding the Canadian Major Football League title six weeks later in Edmonton by knocking off the Calgary Wolfpack 40-27.

Finishing a close second was Bishop Reding's baseball team, which highlighted a stellar season by rallying to eclipse Windsor's Herman Secondary School 6-5 — earning a trip to the all-Ontario Prentice Cup semifinals at SkyDome in the process.

### Top male athlete

It was too close to call between standout right winger Darren Haydar and seasoned linebacker Mike O'Shea, who were each part of professional sports championship teams.

Haydar led all AHL playoff scorers with 26 points to fuel the Milwaukee Admirals' Calder Cup title run, while as a defensive anchor with the Toronto Argonauts, O'Shea's leadership and



The Marauders had plenty to celebrate this year, with league and national title wins.

stabilizing presence were instrumental in a 27-19 Grey Cup win over the B.C. Lions.

### Top female athlete

Standing out among a particularly strong field this year, star show jumper Ainsley Vince took her equestrian efforts to new heights. The 28-year-old began with her best-ever performance at the World Cup in Milan, Italy — placing 22nd overall with Catch 22 — and was red hot through the dog days of summer with three championship wins in as many grand prix

appearances. She also won the Jump Canada Series for the third consecutive year with Catch 22, and placed second with Uno.

Also earning consideration were Olympic swimming hopeful Jennifer Porenta and highly-decorated triathlete/duathlete Nancy Cole-Hryciw.

### Dynasty continues

E.C. Drury's wrestling team captured an unprecedented fifth straight OFSAA team title at the University of Windsor. The Spartans' cham-

pionship defense wasn't solidified until their very last match, when graduating veteran Jesse Ronan pulled off a gold-medal victory to keep the streak going.

### Grace under pressure

The Winterhawk juveniles erased second and third-period deficits en route to delivering an overtime victory against Southpoint in the 'A' Silver Stick Tournament finals — with Julian Ricci's doorstep scramble heroics cementing a 4-3 decision.

### Hefty hardware haul

Leading a successful trio of Fighting Griffin Martial Arts club members, Campbellville's Joanne Agnew took home a mountain of hardware from the season-ending International Federation of Martial Arts Championships in New York. Topping her accolades was Competitor of the Year honours in the women's 18-34 Q-belt (under black belt) division.

### Golden girls — Part 1

E.C. Drury's Kristin McIlroy and Milton District's Michelle Claessens each tasted OFSAA swimming gold in Etobicoke. McIlroy was a duel winner — turning back all challengers in both the senior girls 100-metre backstroke and 200m individual medley — while Claessens won the senior girls 50m freestyle.

### Oh so close — Part 1

Powered by a remarkable effort from ace Kirsty Goodearle, Humber College's girls volleyball team came heartbreakingly close to

• see PAST on page 17

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