



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Red Cross scores with soccer support

Judith Dobbs of the north Halton branch of the Canadian Red Cross accepts a cheque for \$2,300 for Asian tsunami relief efforts from Milton Youth Soccer Club members (from left) Michael, Jennifer and David Haringa — who represent the organization's three levels, rep, select and house league. A dollar from every player registration in February went toward the fund.

Minor lacrosse holding its own despite Jr. B team's departure

Lacrosse is alive and well in Milton — at least at the minor level.

Okay, so it's not booming, but it's holding its own. "We're a little ahead of last year," said Susan Grant, president of the Milton Minor Lacrosse Association, speaking in terms of registration. "The younger groups are looking better than they have for a while."

It's a constant battle, however, she added. "We have difficulty competing against soccer. Last year they had 20 tyke teams and we had difficulty putting together a rep team. Fundamentally, Milton is a soccer town."

Part of the problem is there are some misconceptions about lacrosse. Grant even had some of her own when she was at the arena for a soccer function when her kids were still playing that sport.

"I saw a kid get cross-checked into the glass and I turned to my husband and asked what kind of parent would let their kid play this game," she recalled.

She laughs about it now, but also noted that statistics show that the number of injuries in lacrosse is so low that it's tied



with MURRAY TOWNSEND

Out in left field

with bowling. She added that once her kids discovered lacrosse they didn't want to go back to soccer.

The cost to play lacrosse is about the same as soccer, and the season runs from April 11 though June 25 so kids are finished before summer. Rep teams go a little longer.

House league and the softie division (learning the basics and scrimmaging) start at age four. Rep teams go up to the midget age, but it doesn't appear that there will be an intermediate team this year.

Grant isn't sure whether or not that's a product of the junior team ceasing operations here or older kids having jobs or find-

ing other activities.

Folding up shop locally last summer, the Jr. B Mavericks were supposed to have moved to Cambridge this season, but that hasn't worked out.

"The Cambridge minor organization was originally behind it," explained general manager Jim Goertz, "But then a new board of directors was elected that did not support the move at this time."

Goertz is still hopeful they can work something out for next year and is still disappointed things didn't work out in Milton. "There was the lack of fan support and a lack of support from the business community. Junior teams can't operate without both."

Another factor is that when Milton first started the junior program they were the only team in the area.

When other clubs began operations they started taking away the better players as well, because the Milton lacrosse system isn't big enough to support the junior team by itself.

"We were just getting leftovers," said Goertz, "And the long-term future did not look bright."

The minor lacrosse system is still working to increase participation. "We're doing some marketing things this year to get lacrosse more widely recognized in town," said Grant. "It may just be that people don't know where to find us."

They can find them for the final registration night at John Tonelli Sports Centre Thursday from 6:30 to 9 p.m.

3-on-3 b-ball coming soon

Interested in a little hoops action?

If so, the Milton Leisure Centre is the place to be April 23, when CityWide Sports hosts its inaugural three-on-three basketball tournament for males 16 years of age and up.

The Saturday showcase is the first of

several events planned by CityWide, which is in the process of bringing a pre-teen basketball camp to town, as well as organizing a men's summer league.

Those wanting to get in on next month's tournament are asked to call CityWide at (416) 918-4307 by April 15.

Quick Hits

Whitlock set for 'challenge' race

Ed Whitlock won't be battling the clock this time around.

The world's only person 70 or older to complete a marathon in under three hours, doing so twice in back-to-back appearances at the Toronto Waterfront Marathon, Milton's renowned runner is set for a unique challenge race this Sunday in the Netherlands.

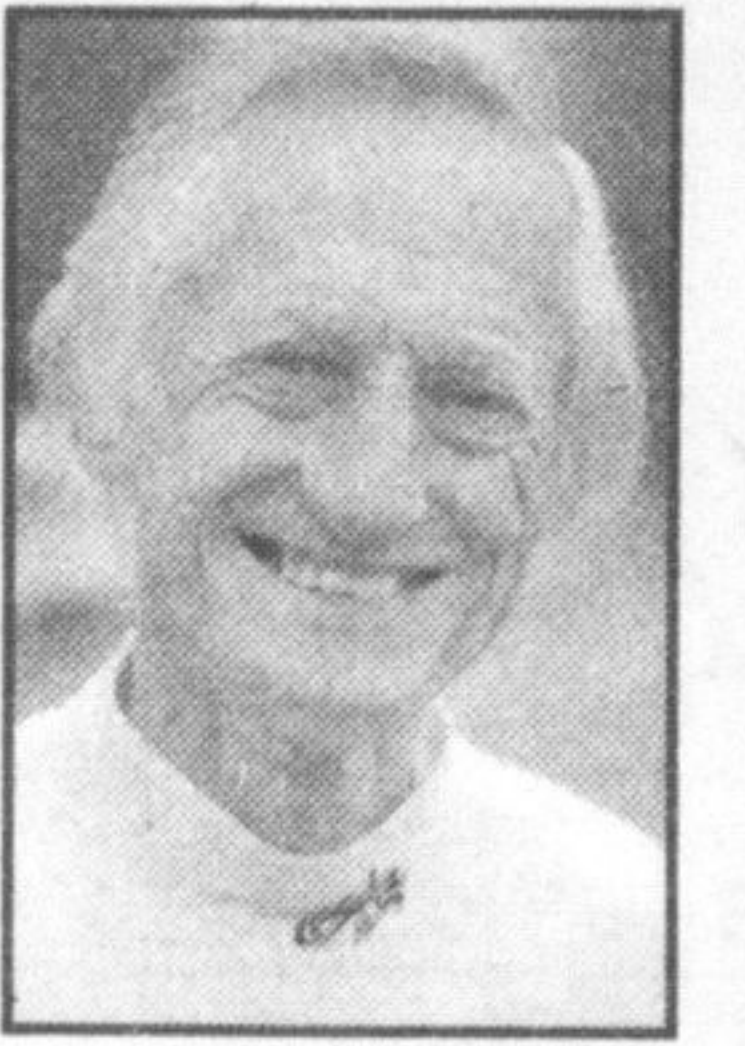
Laying down the gauntlet is host Dutchman Joop Ruter, a 71 year old who ran 3:02.49 last year in Rotterdam — where the upcoming showdown will take place.

While challenge races are nothing new to Whitlock, this is the first one he's accepted for marathon competition.

"It's going to be interesting," said the soft-spoken senior, who recently turned 74.

While not quite sure he's up to matching the 2:54.49 performance he delivered last year in Toronto, Whitlock said he's had a couple of solid efforts at shorter distances this past winter at York University and that training has been going fairly well.

"The weather didn't really slow me down — just a few days with the freezing rain. That's what stops you in your tracks," remarked the local racer, who trains up to three hours a day and usually covers 100 miles a week.



Ed Whitlock

Haydar still out with ankle injury

The defending Calder Cup champion Milwaukee Admirals are heading to Hamilton this week, but their productive Milton right winger won't be accompanying them.

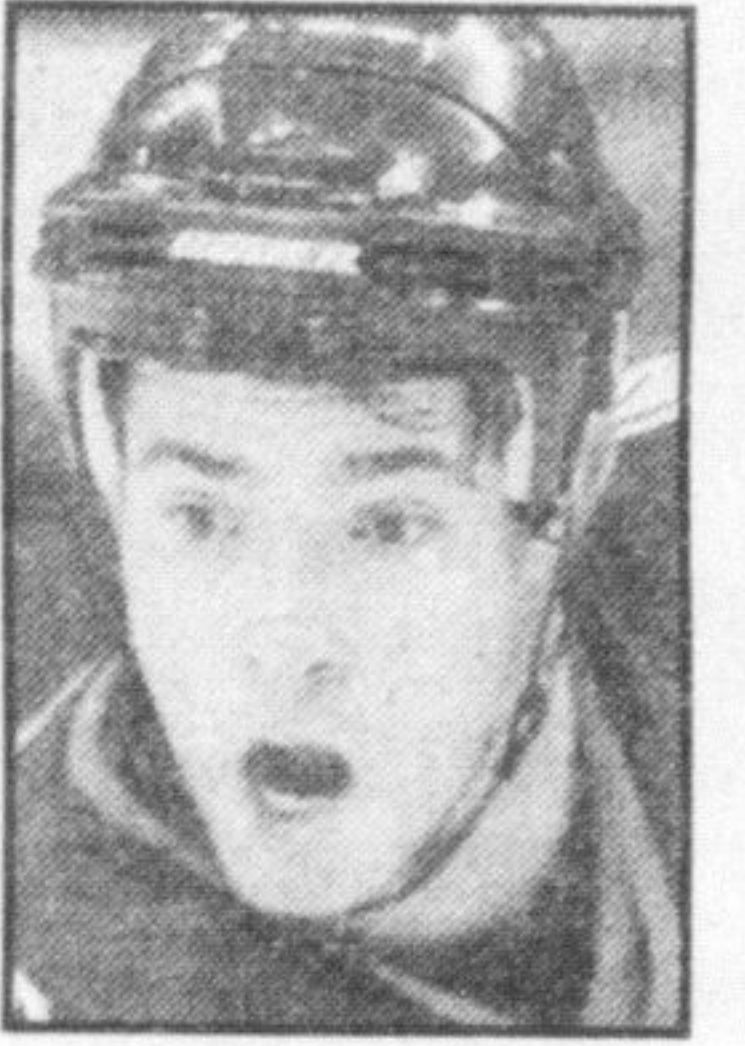
Third-year veteran Darren Haydar was sidelined with an ankle injury early last month — after catching a rut in the ice during practice — and is still a ways off from returning to the line-up.

He'll be staying behind in Milwaukee to continue physiotherapy for the hair-line fracture — which, besides a mild concussion two years ago in his NHL debut with Nashville, represents the first injury of his career.

"Progress has been pushed back. Three or four weeks (of recovery time) was a little aggressive, the doctor told me," explained the 25 year old. "Hopefully I'll be back for the playoffs."

The injury puts the kibosh on plans for a local bus trip to Copps Coliseum, as well as a post-game reception for Haydar with family and friends following the first of two meetings with the hometown Bulldogs tomorrow evening.

Haydar sits tied for second in team scoring with 23 goals and 25 assists in 56 games.



Darren Haydar

Local fencers fare well in London

A trio of Milton Fencing/Pentathlon Club members showed strongly at the recent London Ontario Challenge Circuit fencing event.

Club coach and usual standout competitor Jose Hernandez — a top-eight fixture all season — secured his second bronze medal of the year in men's epee.

Meanwhile, Stephen Willson overcame a somewhat shaky start to grab an eight-place finish — cutting his hits against in half through the later stages of competition to crack the top 10.

"After a meeting with coach Hernandez, I regained my composure and outscored my opponents in the second half," said Willson.

Rounding out the trio was George Daunt, who used the event as a warm-up for this summer's International Pentathlon Masters Invitational and placed 24th.

