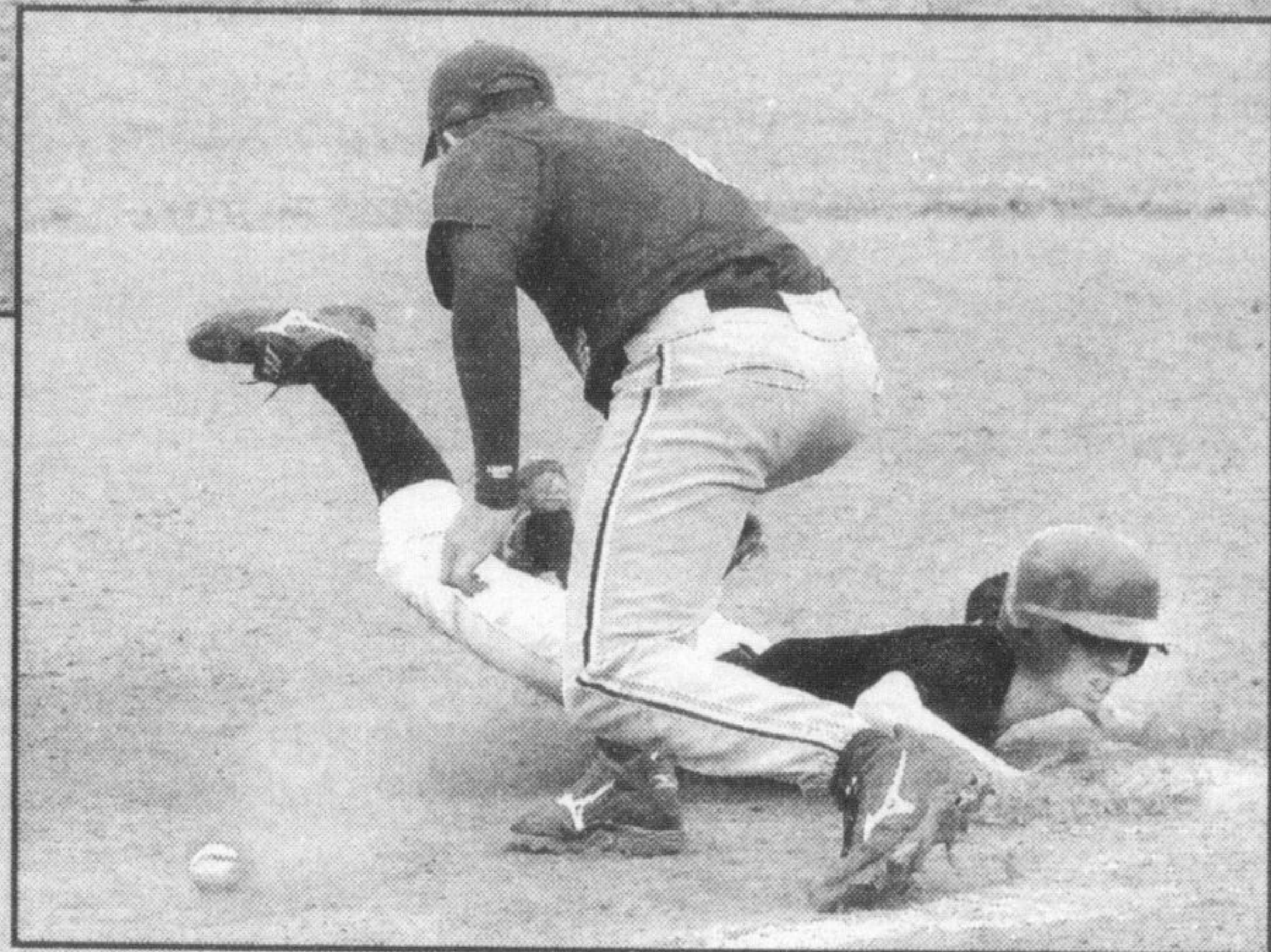
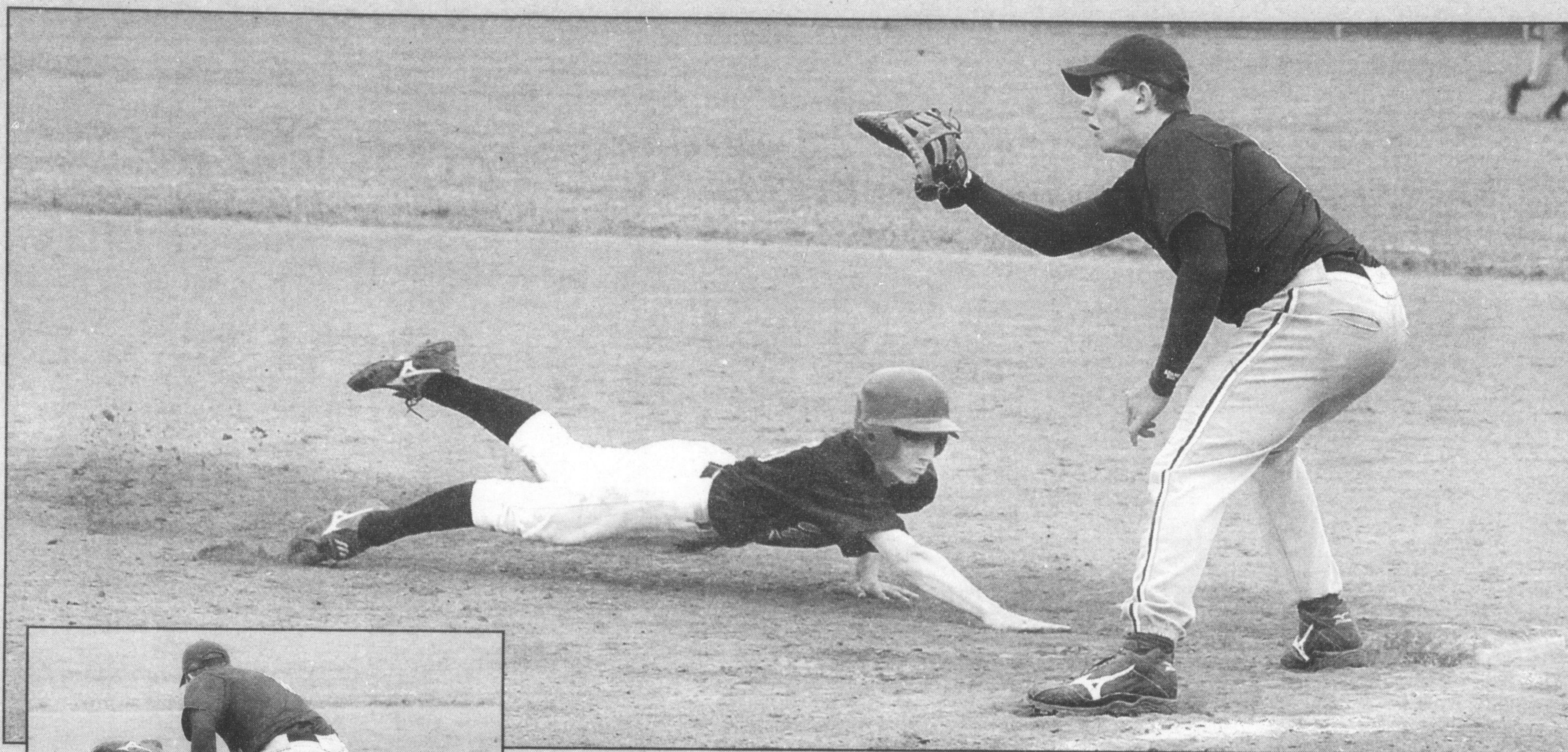


Sports

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'Beatin' the tag

Miltonian Dustin Roskam of the Halton Athletic Club's 18-and-under team dives back to first base, just ahead of an attempted pick off, during Saturday's second game of a doubleheader with the Canadian Thunderbirds White 16s. HAC — which also includes fellow local players Ryan Bauer and Will Hunter — took the first game 5-1 but then lost the second contest 4-3.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Marauders upstage 'Horns in heated rematch

Milton capitalizes on Oakville penalties to remain undefeated in NFC play

By MURRAY TOWNSEND
Special to The Champion

The War of the Worlds is due out in theatres next week, but for sheer intensity it will be difficult to match Saturday's Battle of Halton.

The Milton Marauders prevailed over the perennial powerhouse Oakville Longhorns 30-21 in the trash-talking, body-smashing, head-bashing clash of the titans that left Milton as the lone undefeated team in the Northern Football Conference at 3-0.

Oakville fell to 2-1 and now sits in a three-way tie for second.

Since the start of the 2001 season, the Longhorns have played 44 games and won 41 of them. The three losses have all been to Milton, the second coming in last year's NFC championship.

The Marauders jumped out to a 7-0 lead on a Steve Lubin touchdown on their second possession, which was aided by a slew of penalties by the Longhorns.

On Oakville's first play after the major, pressure forced Longhorns quarterback Jeremy Mussche to throw up a desperation pass that was

picked off by Rayon Walker near midfield and returned to the one-yard line. Josh Spanik then found Andrew Taylor wide open to make it 14-0.

Oakville bounced back with a touchdown on their next possession and that was it for scoring until the fourth quarter, with both teams battling it out in the trenches and making their opponents pay for every yard. The Longhorns put together a drive early in the final quarter for a touchdown, but the extra point was blocked by Peter Hummel — a key play at that stage of the game with time running down.

With less than five minutes remaining, George Psofimis, in hot pursuit of the Oakville quarterback, caused a fumble which he calmly scooped up and ran into the end-zone.

On Oakville's next possession, the Marauders

defense came up with a pivotal play once again when Wayne Sliwinski intercepted a first down pass, resulting in a John D'Ovidio field goal. That was promptly followed by a Mike Bartello interception that he returned 50 yards to the Oakville nine-yard line. Slippery Steve Lubin, with his customary second, third, and fourth efforts took it over the line to make it 30-13 with 54 seconds left on the clock — essentially icing the much-anticipated championship rematch.

Oakville finished the scoring with a long bomb to former Marauder Damien Hannaford with timing running out.

Former longtime Longhorn Wayne Sliwinski was once again a major factor in defeating his former team. "You can't get up for anything if you can't get up for these games. At the end of

• see GREAT on page A25

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