

V-ballers create quite a Storm

Highlight stellar season with provincial championship win

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Milton Storm blew their way to an awfully memorable spring. Following up on a provincial title triumph at the University of Waterloo late last month, the local 15-and-under girls volleyball team — which includes five Milton-area players — finished tied for third recently at the Eastern Canadian championships in Moncton, New Brunswick.

It took the tournament's eventual gold medalists to finally oust the Storm, who were downed in straight 25-16 sets by the soon-to-be champion Etobicoke Titans.

Milton won four of its six round-robin matches — including a 25-7, 25-14 decision over the Nova Scotia provincial champs — and then had to rally from a 25-9 game-one set back to Quebec's Mistral in the quarterfinal to prevail with scores of 25-19 and 15-9.

But comebacks were nothing new for the Storm, who dropped the first set of every single match at the provincials before turning the tide on their opposition.

"They gave parents a lot of grey hairs, alright," recalled

coach Doug Veldman.

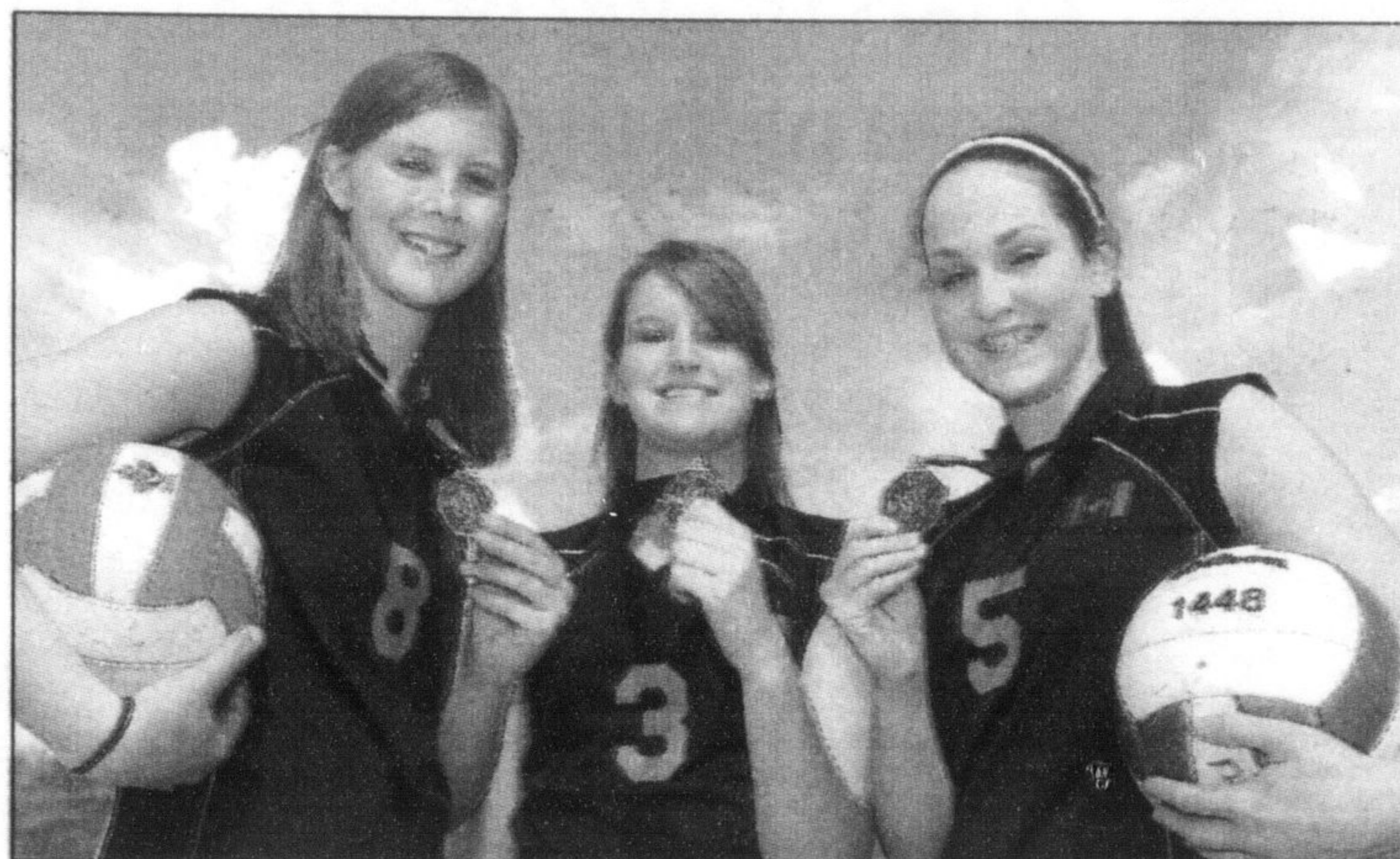
He figures the girls' composure in those nail-biting battles can be attributed to spending some time up at the 16-and-under level this season, with solid showings at two tournaments and a silver-medal performance at the 16U provincials last month in Barrie.

Noted Veldman, "That was the whole purpose, to get them ready for the 15-and-under provincials."

The Storm's 15-and-under provincial championship was punctuated with a 20-25, 25-14, 15-9 win over the Niagara Splash. Miltonian Meg Rector led the way with topnotch hitting and blocking up the middle — which earned her MVP honours — while her teammates delivered fundamentally-sound play to bring title hopes to fruition.

"They pulled together after dropping the first set and just knew they could do it," said Veldman.

En route to the finals, the Storm turned back challenges from the Toronto Lightning and Aurora Storm in the



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION
From left, Meg Rector, captain Emily Johnston and Dayna Noltie — among the Milton members of the Storm — display their Ontario gold medals.

quarters and semis respectively.

Captain Emily Johnston provided effective setting throughout the provincials, while she and fellow Miltonian Jenna Bray took home the Ontario Volleyball Association Award of Excellence for their leadership on the court.

Making up the rest of this year's 15-and-under Storm were fellow Milton-area players Dayna Noltie and Sarah Tosh and Halton Hills teammates Jennifer Davids, Jessica Mick, Vicky Strachan and Cassidy Veldman.



BANNER DAY FOR MAVERICKS: Members of last year's tyke Maverick team proudly display their recently-received provincial championship banner before being honoured at a Jr. B Mavericks game. They're the only local lacrosse team to ever win an Ontario title.

Softballer saying thanks through charity tourney

Neil Teague is looking to give back to McMaster Children's Hospital via an awfully familiar venue — namely, the playing field.

The accomplished local softballer — who has enjoyed success on both the national and international stage — had a close call back in February, when just-born second son Aidan suffered a series of unexplained seizures.

The newborn was taken to McMaster Children's Hospital and spent three days on a respirator in the neo-natal intensive care unit before being given the green light to return home.

Seeing the topnotch care provided to his young son — and countless other babies, many requiring much longer stays — Teague had decided to offer his thanks through an upcoming slo-pitch/softball tournament at area diamonds.

"I was thinking what could we do to show our appreciation, and this just seemed like the answer," he said. "It's shaping up to be a great tournament. We've got teams coming from as far as Windsor."

The four-division event is slated to run June 16 to 18 at Thompson, Lions Sports, Omagh and Drumquin parks — with co-ed competition, as well as men's A, intermediate and recreational loops. About four dozen teams are expected to participate, with weekend entertainment expected to be provided by accomplished musician John Regan — who's performed with Triumph's Rick Emmitt, among others.

All proceeds from the tournament will go to the neo-natal intensive care unit at McMaster Children's Hospital, and those interested in getting a team involved are asked to call Teague at (905) 864-6086.



Neil Teague



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Audition Date: Sunday, May 28 2006
Place: Studio Theatre, Hamilton Place
10 MacNab Street South, Hamilton Ontario

Student Auditions	Adult Auditions										
<table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: left;">Age</td> <td style="text-align: left;">Time</td> </tr> <tr> <td>7-8</td> <td>9:30 - 10:00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9-11</td> <td>10:00 - 10:45</td> </tr> <tr> <td>12-14</td> <td>10:45 - 11:30</td> </tr> <tr> <td>15 & up</td> <td>11:30 - 12:30</td> </tr> </table>	Age	Time	7-8	9:30 - 10:00	9-11	10:00 - 10:45	12-14	10:45 - 11:30	15 & up	11:30 - 12:30	<p>Please arrive 45 minutes prior to your audition to allow time for registration. \$10.00 registration fee applies.</p>
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12-14	10:45 - 11:30										
15 & up	11:30 - 12:30										

Call Backs: All students are to report back for 1:00 p.m.

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