Milton hangs on for narrow win

from MARAUDERS on page A17

Jon Nedeljkovic, the team's leading rusher last season, went down with a minor ankle injury on his first carry and didn't return.

Also lost to injury were defensive players Derrick Burke and Colin Grant, who had to be removed from the field by ambulance with a possible spinal injury.

Paralysis has been ruled out, but as of press time he remained in hospital and his status for the season remains unknown.

On the defensive side of the ball, Wayne Sliwinski and company shut down the running game for the most part, and the secondary was almost per-

Jason Nunez had several diving interception attempts slide through his fingers, and Jim Harper — defensive co-ordinator for Bishop Reding's championship football team this past fall made the defensive play of the game when he intercepted a pass on his own goal line and returned it 40 yards, a block or two from going all the way.

"The wind was hard to judge," explained Harper. "Sometimes it was strong and sometimes there was no wind at all."

lem with the wind in the second quarter, when he hauled in a punt at Milton's own 30-yard line and returned it 80 yards for the hosts' lone major.

"When I got the ball I scanned the field and followed the blockers," said the junior graduate from the Mississauga Warriors. "I can't even take



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

TAKEDOWN: Marauder Mike Long gets brought down by two Toronto Maddog defenders during Saturday's season opener at Milton District High School.

credit for it myself."

What Bridge fails to mention is that once he got to the outside, he ran like Antoine Bridge didn't have a prob- the wind and left everybody in his dust. Nobody even came close to touching him, much less stopping him.

Mike Zujko got Milton on the scoresheet with a 25-yard field goal just before half-time.

Coach Barry Emo was clearly not pleased with the overall effort, but did note that several players were rookie

starters and that injuries were a major factor. He also said that the game would serve as a reality check for the team, and that the complacency that comes from winning games easily in the past would be dispelled.

The Marauders are back at Milton District High School this coming Saturday to take on the Quinte Limestone Panthers. Game time, as always, is 3 p.m.

Mavericks officially eliminated from Jr. B playoff picture

The inevitable has become the official.

Never a realistic contender for post-season play in their first year back on the floor, the Jr. B Mavericks were mathematically eliminated from the playoff picture at Milton Sports Centre Friday night.

Unable to build on a three-goal outburst early in the second period — due in part to a lack of powerplay punch — the hosts fell 11-7 to the Markham Ironheads.

Captain and upcoming all-star representative Mike Cameron led Milton with a goal and two assists, while six other Mavericks dented the twine. Among them was Paul Ryan, who notched his team-leading 17th marker of the season in the opening frame.

Blake Bolton, Joey De'Athe, Mike Holmes, Tim Sztorc and call-up Brent Guest were the other marksmen.

The following evening at MSC, Milton looked poised to knock off the Nepean Knights and sweep their Ottawaarea opposition, having beaten Gloucester May 13 for their lone victory.

However, the Mavericks couldn't tighten the noose on their guests after jumping out to a 2-0 lead and eventually lost 9-6. Two goals against in the last 10 seconds of period two and an overall sluggish performance combined to put the kibosh on one of Milton's few legitimate shots at a win.

The Mavericks drew within two goals on a nifty shorthanded marker by De'Athe with five minutes left, but gave up an empty netter just a few moments later that essentially sealed the deal. De'Athe and fellow native Miltonian Lee Frittenburg each tallied twice, while chipping in singles were Guest and Shane Scott.

This past weekend's games were played at MSC because of the Milton Invitational Lacrosse Tournament.

Now 1-16, the Mavericks have three games left this season, including Friday's clash with the Saints at John Tonelli Sports Centre. Game time is 8:30 p.m.

Ask The rofessionals

If you have any questions these professionals can answer, please write to:

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Yvonne Oliveira

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