Marauders remain unbeaten with shutout win

Defence yet to be scored on

By Murray Townsend SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

The Marauders aren't doing it quite the way they did last season, but they're still doing it — and that's what counts in the standings.

Now 2-0 after Saturday's 10-0 whitewash of the Quinte Limestone Panthers at Milton District High School, Milton is one of only two teams still unbeaten this year.

Although the scoreboard didn't show it, the Marauders were a much-improved team on offense over their first week. They sustained some long drives, and if not for a slew of dropped passes and three missed field goals, would certainly have scored a lot more points.

On the first play of the game, a scrambling Neil Balthazaar

things in motion. Radway — one of the league receiving leaders - caught two more passes in the game for a total of 81 yards, and has probably been the team's offensive MVP thus far. The drive ended with a 22-yard field goal by John D'Ovidio.

On Quinte's first play from scrimmage, linebacker Sam Rotolo made a diving interception of a Dan Kelly pass. Kelly, who was the Northern Football Conference leading passer going into the contest, managed just four completions and was picked off twice — the second time by Wayne Sliwinski.

Milton's defense still hasn't allowed a point this season, and as if they weren't already strong enough, were buoyed by the return of defensive ends Kojo Millington and Steve Young, who each had a sack. If a team plans to pass with the

The Marauders went the length of the field at the start of the second half for their only touchdown. The drive was marked by some impressive second and third efforts by their running backs. Jon Nedeljkovic was sidelined with an injury, but George Baiden stepped up in his place with 92 yards on 13 carries, while T.J. Williams and Mike Long — who scored from 17 yards out — gained valuable real estate as well to bolster the running game.

Milton faced two dangerous situations in the fourth quarter, reminiscent of some previous nightmares. A fake punt, which looked similar to the one that contributed to its downfall in last year's championship game against Tri-City, would have given the Panthers a first down, except that Jimmy Harper tracked the punter and brought him down. Also, a blocked field goal attempt late in the game — similar to the one which almost allowed the Toronto Maddogs to tie last week — might have gone for a touchdown if the Quinte player had picked it up and ran with it instead of falling on

Quarterback Balthazaar — glad not to have to contend with the wind this past week - sees progress with the offense after a good week of practice.

"It's early and we're still shaking out the bugs. We had a lot of yardage, but we have to finish. This is one of the best offences I've ever played on — very high-powered."

Balthazaar, who played at the University of Guelph last season, said the offence will come around, and also noted the improved play of the offensive line.

Coach Barry Emo said the team is still relying on the defence too much, but was pleased with the progress on offense, and is convinced the points will come.

He said, "We're like a 50-goal scorer who has been in a slump. Once we break out, it's going to be good."

The Marauders are in Sault Ste. Marie Saturday.



Milton sports enthusiasts are once again Shooting for Angels this summer, in an effort to remember and honour two of their own.

Back by popular demand after a successful inaugural event, the Shooting for Angels 3-on-3 charity basketball tournament is slated for August 26 and 27. Held at E.C. Drury High School, the tournament is in memory of Mike Maynard and Doug Burns - longtime buddies who were killed in a car-train crash in London two years ago.

A licensed after-party with live entertainment following day one play and a raffle and silent auction will help round out the weekend festivities. Last year more than \$20,000 was raised for Milton District Hospital, Lawson Ministries and Bereaved Families of Ontario.

Those interested in getting a team together for Shooting for Angels have until July 7 to do so, and can sign up by calling Tom Gallinger at (905) 878-3968 or visiting www.shootingforangels.com. Organizers are also looking for both volunteers and sponsors for the late-summer showcase.

Rider bursary started

There'll be more than just one big winner at Halton Place September 3.

Along with declaring a champion in the \$75,000 FEI World Cup Qualifier that afternoon — which highlights the inaugural two-week Canadian Country Classic — the nearby equestrian centre will present a \$2,000 cheque to this winner of its newly-established Inspiring Young Riders Bursary.

The bursary will be awarded to the winning young author of a writing competition entitled What Does Being A Champion Mean To Me?' Essays will be rated on content, merit and creativity, and will be judged by a panel of equestrian professionals — including Horse Sport Magazine publisher/editor Jennifer Anstey and Senior National Equine Canada judge Robyn Baechler.

The contest is open to riders 18 years and under, regardless of their choice of discipline.

Entries will be accepted until June 30, with the winner receiving the cheque during the September 3 World Cup Qualifier. For more information, contact Halton Place event director Megan Krueger at (905) 873-2316 or megan@haltonplace.com.



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