

SPORTS

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King pleased with play in Open debut

Despite not making cut, local golfer quite happy with effort in Hamilton

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Danny King may not have made the cut, but the sting from that didn't seem to cut too deep.

"I'm not disappointed," stressed the 38-year-old Miltonian, who in his Canadian Open debut finished at an overall +3 — three strokes shy of making it to weekend play. "Sure I would have liked to be playing today (Saturday), but I was pleased with my performance. I just didn't take advantage of a couple of putts."

A model of consistency over a two-round qualifying campaign at Hamilton Golf and Country Club — during which day-two scores took a hit with gusty winds and the Ancaster course's unforgiving nature when it comes to placement — King delivered 71 and 72 rounds to keep himself in advancement contention.

His best efforts were reserved for the back nine Thursday afternoon, when after five straight pars he birdied both the 15th and 16th holes to establish early hope of being around for the weekend.

"That was big, momentum's so important out there," noted King, who nailed a six-foot downhill putt to birdie the par-three 16th following a masterful five-iron drive that put him well onto the green. "But actually I should have birdied the next two holes as well."

The director of instruction at

Aurora's Magna Golf Club had a couple more birdies on the front nine Friday morning — both on par fours — to remain at +1, and subsequently stay in the hunt heading into his final half round. That's no small feat for an Open first-timer — especially on a day when Hamilton Golf and Country Club had some real teeth to it and began bursting the bubble of some particularly low scores from round one.

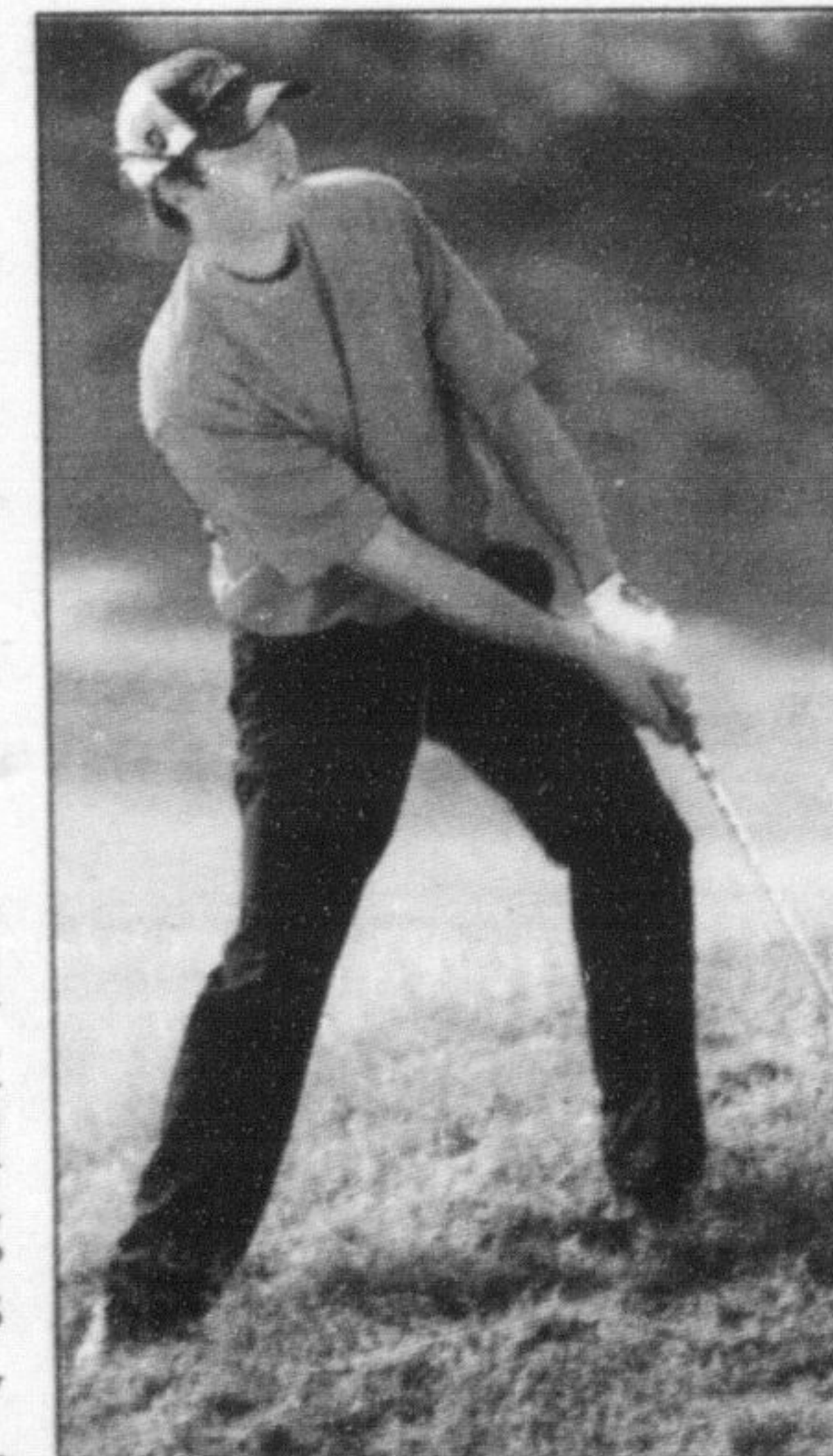
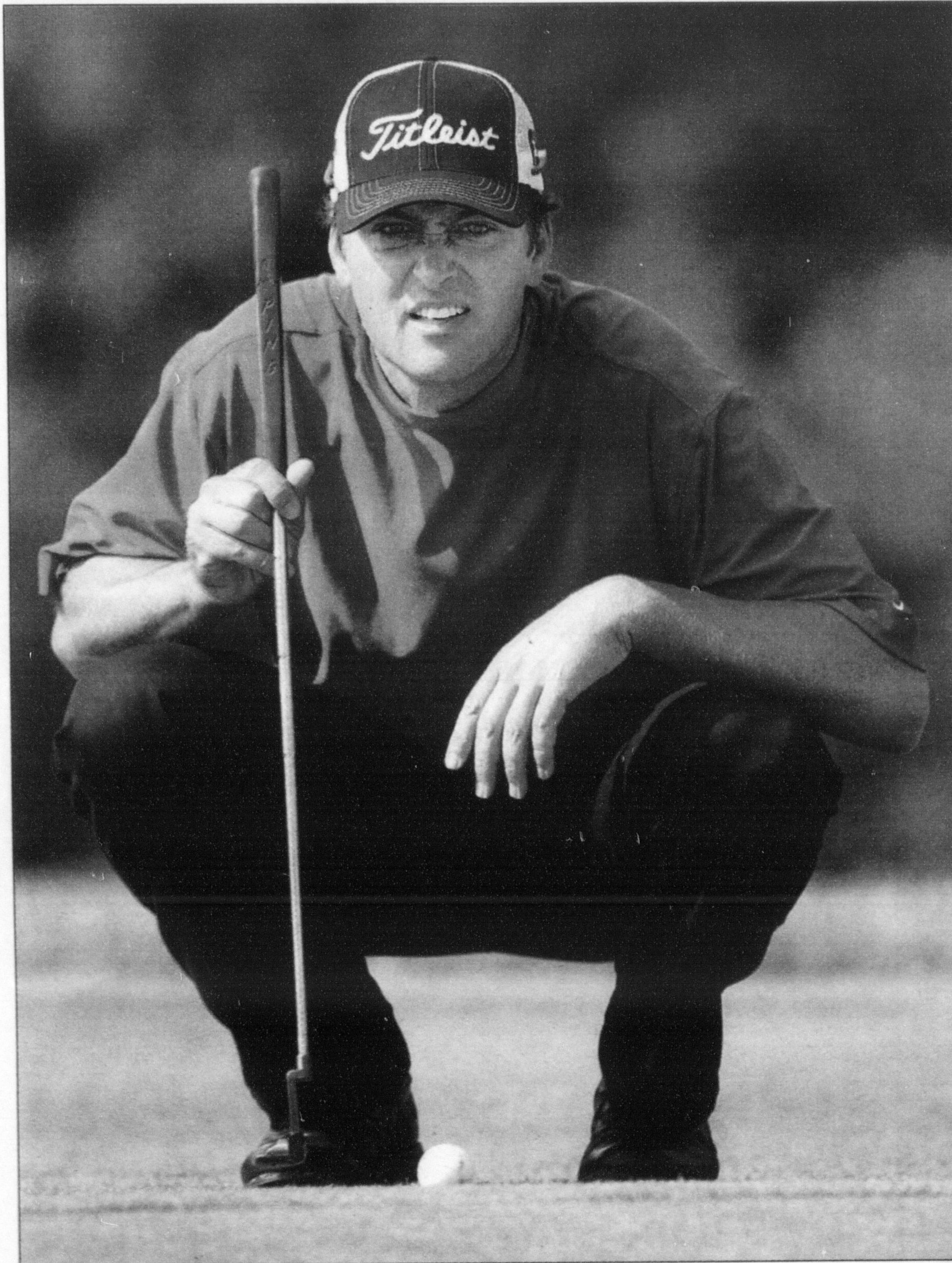
"I knew I still had a chance (to make cut), but bogeying the 11th there really hurt," recalled King, who after several years of unsuccessful attempts qualified for this year's Open with last November's first-place finish at the \$80,000 Titleist and Footjoy Canadian PGA Club Professional Championship in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

With some solid striking behind him, the local golfer had five birdies overall and managed to avoid the dreaded double bogey on a course that's more about positioning than power.

While not exactly thrilled to be relegated to spectator over the weekend and watch another year go by without a Canadian champion — with top hopes Mike Weir and Stephen Ames falling far short of the cut — King will no doubt look back favourably on his first appearance at the Open.

So will there be a follow-up performance?

"Definitely, 100 per cent. I'll be going back to Q-School later this year and work on getting back. In my heart, I truly feel I belong out there."



PHOTOS COURTESY OF GRAIG ABEL PHOTOGRAPHY

Miltonian Danny King lines up a putt (above) and hits one out of the rough (inset right) last week during his debut performance at the Canadian Open.

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2006 FALL SKILLS DEVELOPMENT SESSIONS

LOCATION: Bishop Reding H.S.
 PUPPY SKILLS: Wednesdays 1-1/2 Hr. Ages 7-10 yrs 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
 DAWG SKILLS: Tuesdays 1-1/2 Hr. Ages 11-14 yrs 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
 FEES: \$110.00 for first child in a family - \$100.00 for each additional child
 DATES: Dawgs: Sept 19th to Dec 12th 2006
 Puppies: Sept 26th to Dec 13th 2006
 INQUIRIES: Call (905) 691-1675 (Brian Schroder)
 REGISTRATION: On-line Registration Form <http://www.eteamz.com/miltonmaddawgs>

Go ONLINE and download the registration form from "Handouts"
 Mail Completed Form and Cheque (payable to Milton Youth Basketball)
 Milton Youth Basketball, 420 Main St E/Suite #558, Milton ON L9T 5G3
 OR

REGISTRATION NIGHT

Tuesday Sept 12, 2006
 7:00-8:00 pm at Bishop Redding H.S. (gym entrance)

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Tuesday Sept 19th, 8:30-10:00 at Bishop Reding
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Minor Bantam Boys (U13)

Wednesday Sept 27th, 8:30-10:00 at Bishop Reding

Minor Bantam Girls (U13)

Monday Sept 18th, 8:00-9:30 Chris Hadfield
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Major Atom Girls (U12)

Monday Sept 18th, 6:30-8:00 Chris Hadfield
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