

# SPORTS

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

**HEADS UP:** Bishop Reding's Dane DaSilva-Horvat (right) goes head-to-head with Lucas Santo of Oakville's Abbey Park during senior boys season opening play at BR Wednesday. The hosts won 2-1 — on goals by twins Erick and Eros Olazabal — but the game was protested due to timing discrepancies and will be replayed.

## Bantam Dawgs make unlikely run to OBA title

*Ranked dead last, Milton clinches Division 6 gold*

By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Heading into the OBA Division 6 bantam boys championships in Scarborough, the Madd Dawgs' season win total could be counted on one hand, and — as a result — they were ranked dead last for the eight-team provincial showcase.

To put it bluntly, the local cagers simply didn't factor into the title picture.

Guess someone forgot to tell them that.

Embracing its long-shot status rather than being psyched out by it, Milton pulled off a first-round win over Guelph and rode that initial momentum all the way to a gold-medal triumph — delivering arguably the most improbable championship victory this year.

"With each game and each quarter our confidence just kept growing," said first-year head coach Craig O'Neill. "The guys were patient with their passes and shots, and really came through under pressure."

That was particularly true in the final against the South Windsor Warriors, who pushed the Madd Dawgs to the limit in a back-and-forth clash that saw each team hold at least a handful of leads before it was all said and done.

A Mitchell Adamson three-point-er with about half-a-minute left stood up as the winning basket, as Milton fended off the Warriors last-ditch efforts to squeak by 42-41. Vastly improved since the early stages of

the season, Adamson contributed eight points to the title victory.

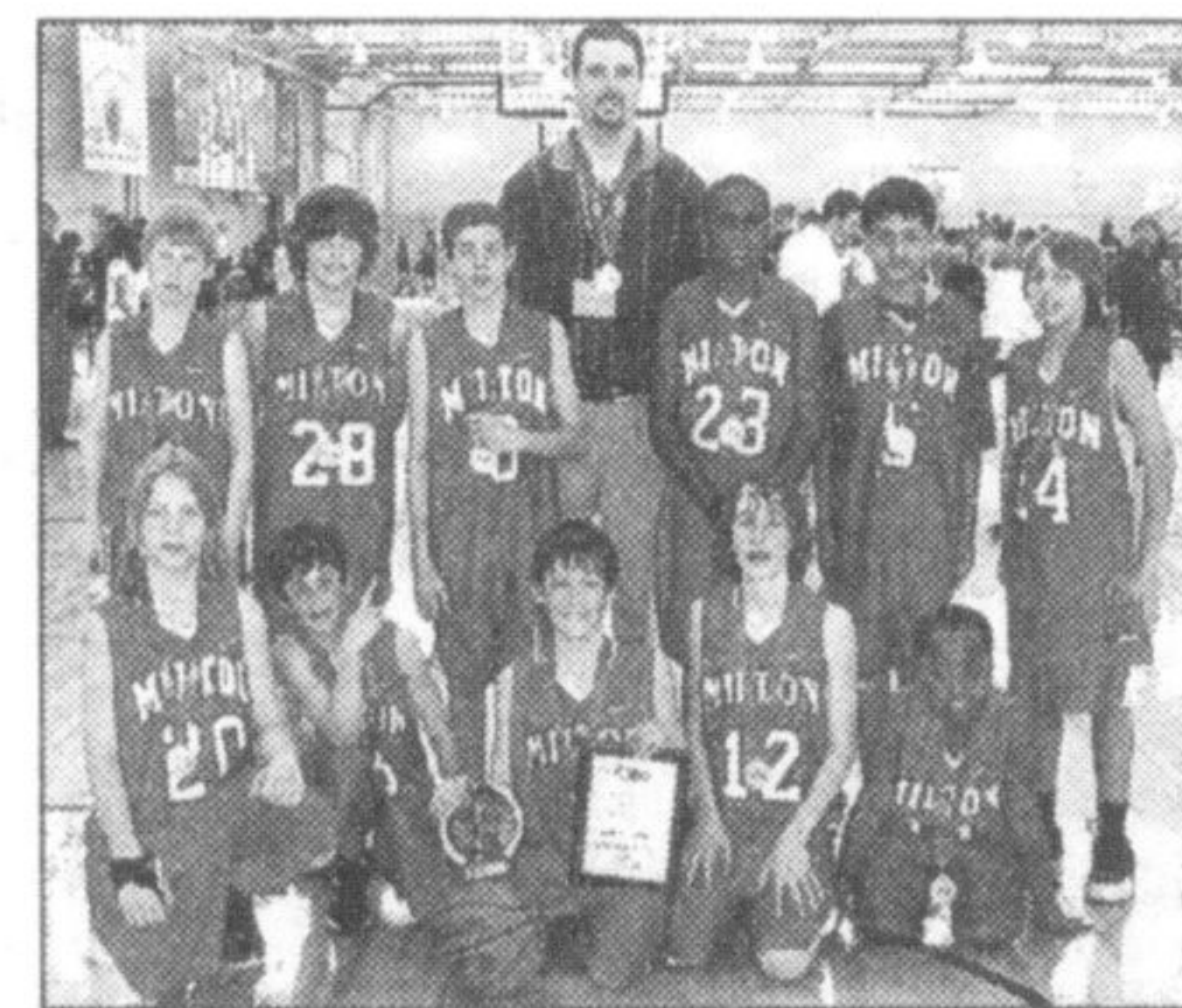
Leading offensively with a dozen points was Cam Stockall, while tournament MVP Eric Schroeder stepped up his already exceptional defensive efforts to help get the better of South Windsor.

The Madd Dawgs booked passage to the championship with a 58-46 decision over the Whitby Sting, whose two guards — one of whom towered over his opposition — were effectively shut down in the convincing semifinal win.

Stockall and Schroeder fueled the semifinal victory, while offering solid supporting roles were Adam Blay, Rabi Kazi, Muco Habimana and Nick Garcia.

Milton won two of its three round-robin games, with the only loss coming to top-seeded York, who were upset by South Windsor in the other semifinal.

Rounding out the championship squad were Rory Payton, Andre Lim, Matt McPhail and Nolan Jeppesen, while Andy Cuvall missed the provincials with an ankle injury.



**GOLDEN BOYS:** The Madd Dawgs proudly display their Ontario Division 6 medals.

## Local pros remain in championship picture

Three Milton pro hockey players remain in the championship hunt.

Sitting the closest to gold right now is Craig Macdonald, whose Central Hockey League's New Mexico Scorpions will look to even up the Southern Conference final at one game apiece tonight — after falling 6-4 to the defending champion Laredo Bucks in the series opener Saturday.

Macdonald had a goal and an assist in the game-one setback, which followed a 3-2 game-seven nail-biter over the Arizona Sundogs in round two. The Scorpions rallied

from a 2-0 series deficit to outshine Arizona, becoming the first team in league history to win a series after losing the first two games at home. Now in his third year of pro hockey, Macdonald — a 24-year-old left winger — has six goals and five assists in 14 playoff games.

Darren Haydar and his American Hockey League's Chicago Wolves begin second-round play tomorrow night against the Iowa Stars after a quick dispatching of his former Milwaukee Admirals, who were swept aside Wednesday night with the third 3-2 decision over the short-lived series.

This year's AHL MVP and scoring leader, 27-year-old Haydar helped close out his old team with his fourth goal in as many games. The veteran right winger has seven points so far in the post season.

Meanwhile, fellow Miltonian Jon Gleed — a 23-year-old defenceman — sat poised to win the East Coast Hockey League's North Division title last night with the Cincinnati Cyclones. Cincinnati led the Dayton Bombers three games to one, putting their state rivals on the proverbial chopping block with Saturday's 5-3 win.

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