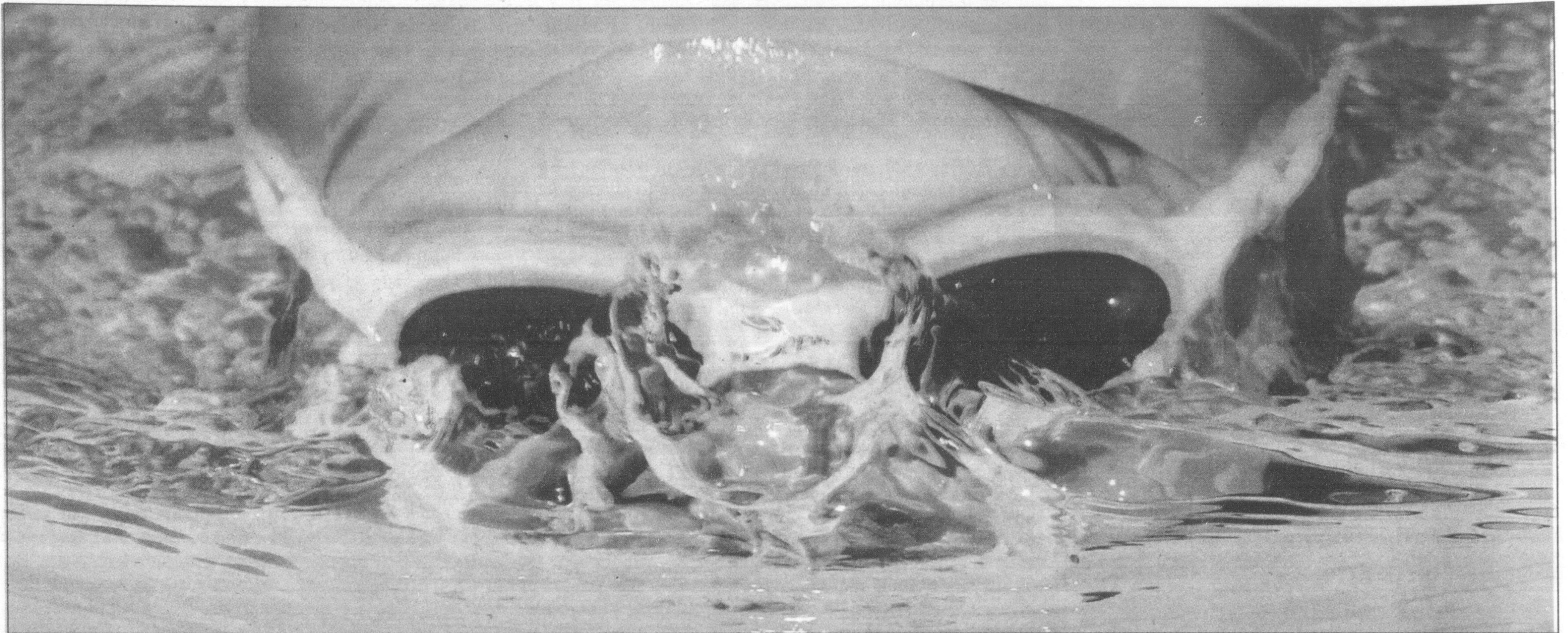


SPORTS

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GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

ON THE SURFACE: Ten-year-old Dakota Rommelaere, a pre-competitive swimmer with the Mini-Marlins program, surfaces for air while practising in Rotary Park Pool Monday evening. It was the club's final practice of the second of two summer sessions.

Despite win, Marauders denied final playoff spot

By Murray Townsend
SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

The Marauders did what they had to do, but in the end it didn't matter as they still missed the playoffs.

Milton outlasted Quinte-Limestone 21-16 in Kingston Saturday afternoon, but the team they were tied with for the final playoff position, the Toronto Maddogs, pulled off a 12-10 upset over the Toronto Raiders earlier in the day — and won the fewest points against tiebreaker.

The Marauders didn't need long to take the lead against the winless Panthers. On their very first play, with the ball on the Quinte 52-yard line, Craig Hawkins — starting his first game at quarterback — fired a bomb to Damian Hannaford for the touchdown.

Quinte-Limestone fumbled the kickoff

and three plays later Hawkins put another rocket into the hands of Krishawn Thompson to put Milton ahead 14-0 before the game was two minutes old.

The Panthers decided they'd make a game of it after all, and on their next possession used the long ball to score a touchdown and get back in the game. In the second quarter they moved the ball again through the air to get down to the Milton eight-yard line.

Quinte-Limestone then tried to run the ball, which is usually a mistake against Milton. On first down, Craig Davoren tackled the runner in the backfield for a loss, then Davoren and Dave Simpson teamed up for another big loss.

Jason Burke drove them back on third down, leaving the Panthers with a field goal

attempt. It started to rain about the same time, making the ball slippery, and the snap was fumbled.

Hawkins hooked up with Jamie Radway in the second quarter on a 62-yard touchdown strike to give Milton a 21-7 lead. Hawkins was 7-for-11 on the game for 229 yards. Hannaford caught four passes for 127 yards.

The hosts threatened just before the half, getting the ball down to the 20-yard line before Billy Wright ended the threat with an interception.

Quinte-Limestone fought back in the second half when Milton wasn't able to move the ball as well in the rain, first with a field goal and then with a touchdown with just a few minutes remaining. They attempted the two-point conversion to make it a three-point game, but the snap was botched.

The Panthers tried the on-side kick, but it landed in Hannaford's hands. Milton then ate up as much clock as it could before being forced to punt in the final minute. Al McAllister just managed to get off the punt, and then John D'Ovidio stopped the returner in his tracks. Two long pass attempts were unsuccessful and the Marauders had their second win of the season.

Milton was without head coach Ken Lashley and premier running back George Baiden, both of whom were in San Diego on business. Co-owner Andrew Todd, an assistant coach at Milton District High School, took the reigns in Lashley's absence.

Todd found out before the game that the Maddogs had won and knocked the Marauders out of the playoffs, but chose not to tell the players until afterwards. That turned out to be a wise move, as they stayed motivated against the tenacious Panthers.



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