

# Hawthorne boys outlasted in Tier 1 final

*Huskies fall just short in first appearance at top ranks*

This time around, the Hawthorne Village boys' 'close-but-no-cigar' title run came on the big stage.

Tier 2 finalists last spring, the Huskies made the jump to north Halton's top ranks this season and nearly pulled out a championship in the process — being outdistanced by Georgetown's Centennial Chargers 29-25 Wednesday night at Georgetown District High School.

"Going from Tier 2 runner-up to Tier 1 runner-up, that's progress," said Peter Stratford, who coached the team alongside Mike Collinson.

Fueled by a strong fan base and their spirit band, the Huskies — who went 8-1 in the regular season and then

eclipsed cross-town rival Sam Sherratt in an epic double overtime semifinal — rallied from an early 10-point deficit and held a couple of second-half leads before being vanquished.



Said Stratford, "It was back-and-forth until the last 22 seconds or so when they (Chargers) hit a couple of shots to pull it out. We missed some free throws that had dropped for us in the semis, but played well defensively."

Standing out in that department were Andrew Brown and Mithoo Kamalanathan.

Owen MacPherson led on the score-sheet with eight points, while Anthony Sereda contributed six and pulled down a number of critical rebounds to

help keep victory hopes alive.

Overall a half-dozen players recorded points for Hawthorne Village, who went nine deep for the title game.

But in the end Centennial's impressive ball handling and overall sound play was just a little too much to overcome.

Earlier in the night Georgetown's Stewarttown crushed Centennial 32-8 in the Tier 1 girls championship.

See Tier 2 elementary basketball results in Friday's Champion.

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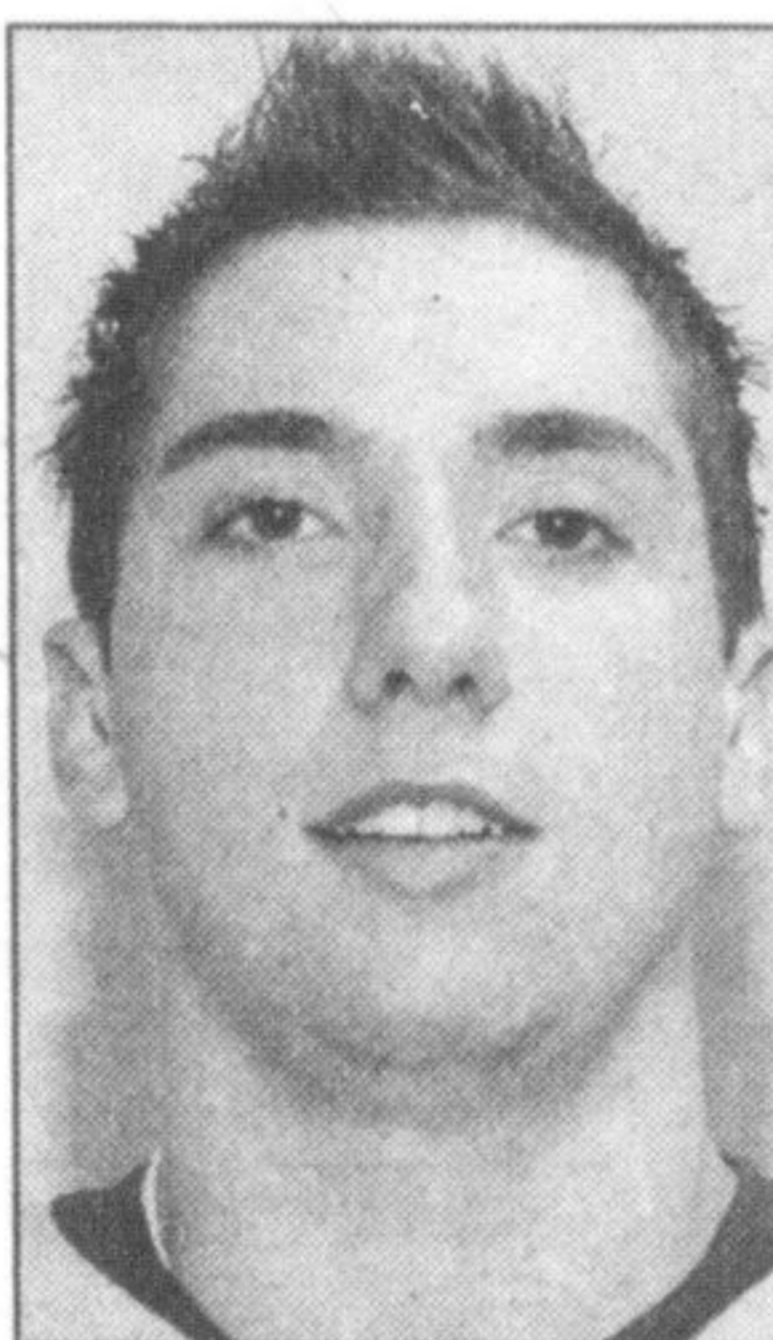
# Novak named SUNYAC's top D

Mike Novak may not have secured any team trophies with Division 3's Oswego Lakers this season, but he did end his junior year with one piece of hardware.

The 22-year-old Miltonian was recently named Best Defensive Defenceman for the SUNYAC conference.

The six-foot-three-inch, 202-pound junior was a key part of a blueline unit that enjoyed the best goals-against average in the division at 2.2.

Unfortunately that didn't translate into overall success for the Lakers, who missed the chance to defend last year's D-3 national title with a 4-3 loss to archrival Plattsburgh in the SUNYAC championship and no at-large bid to the NCAA playdowns.



Mike Novak

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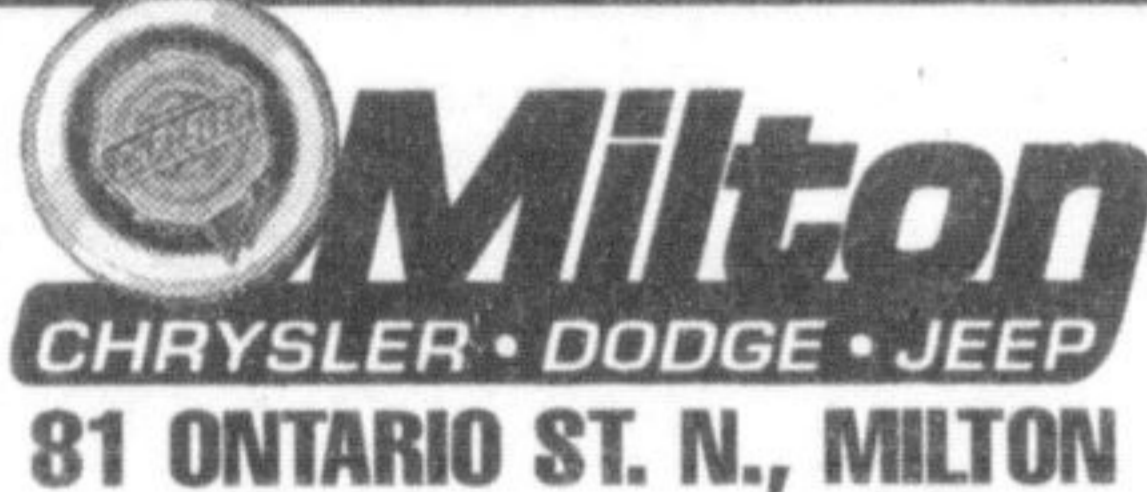
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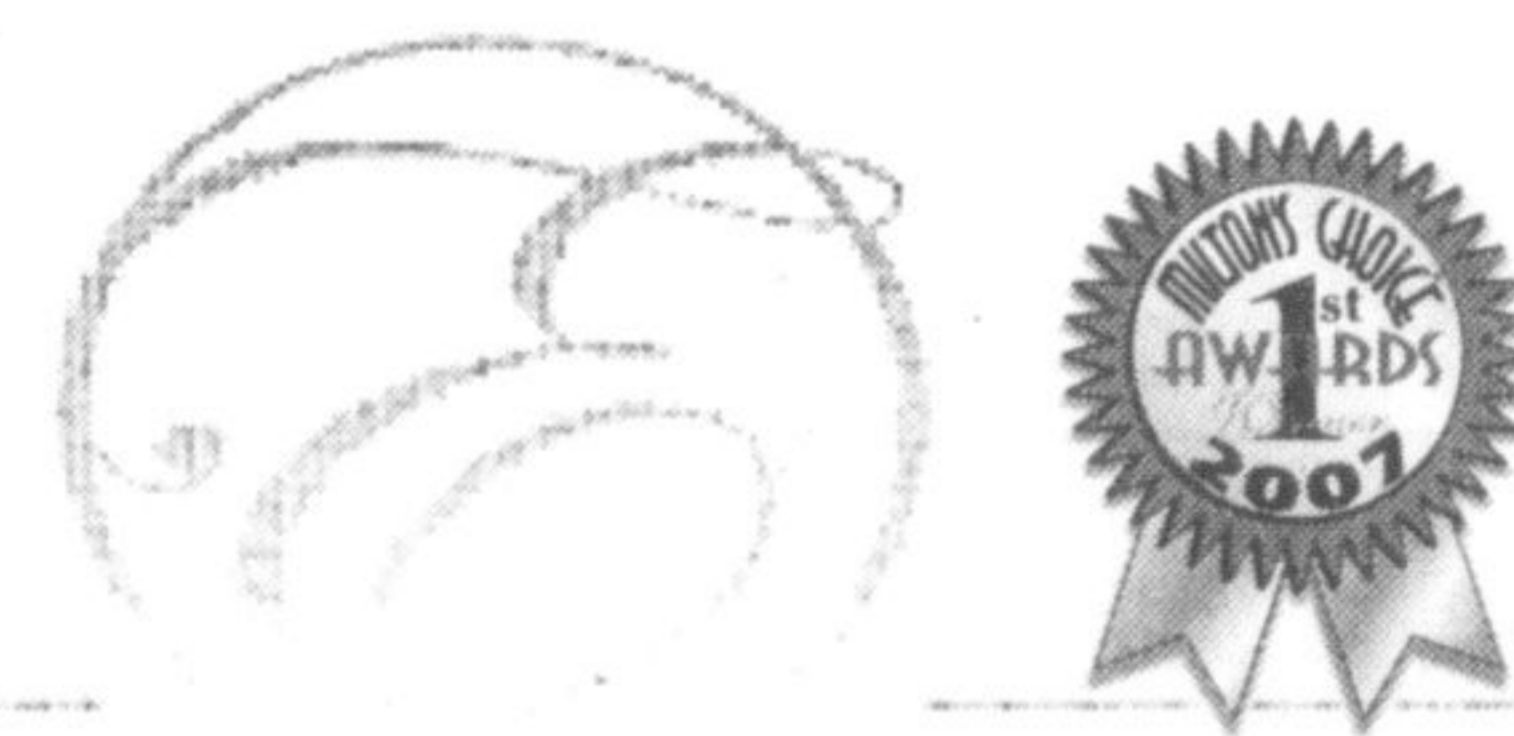
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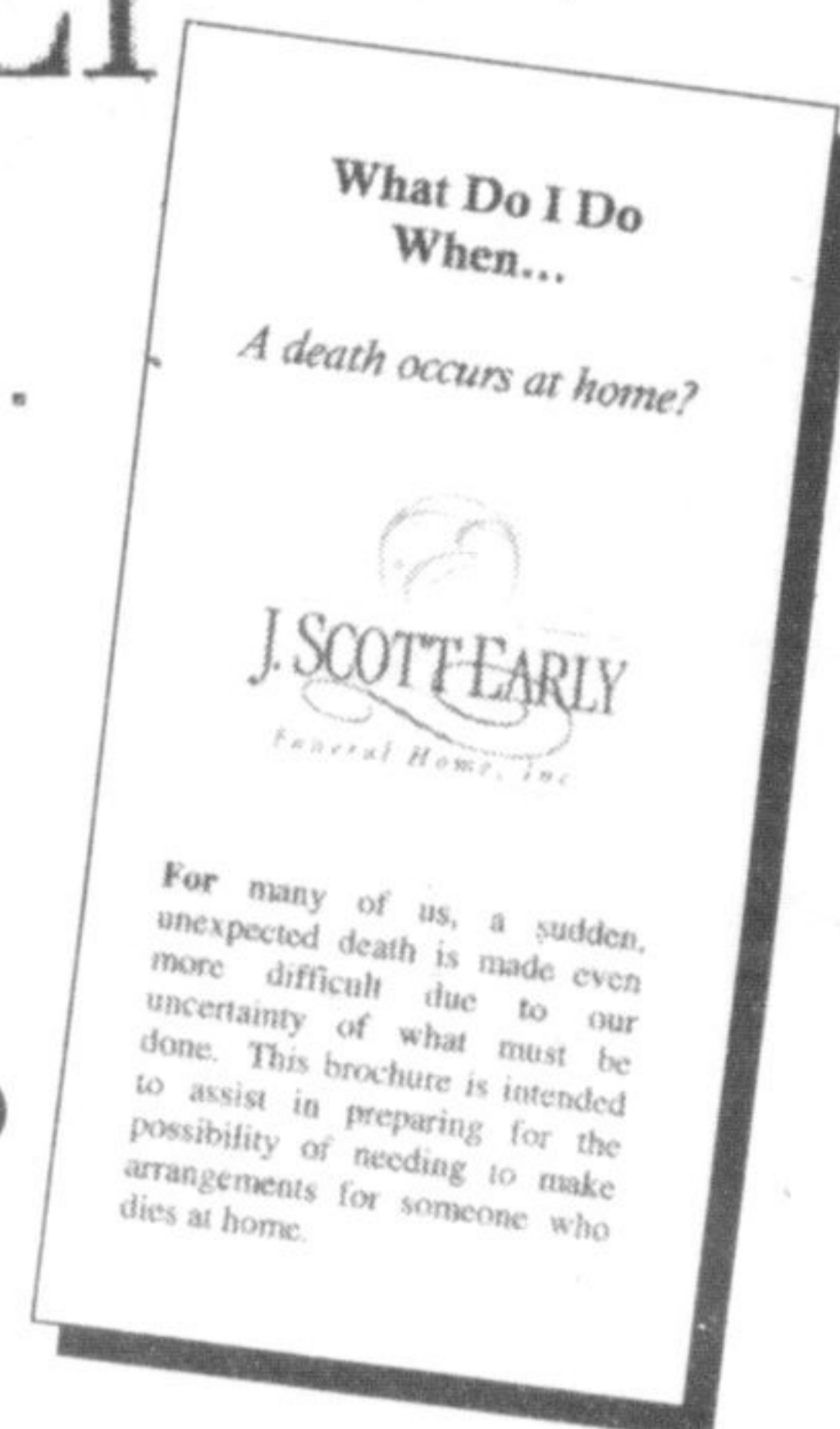


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