

SPORTS

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Missed opportunities come back to haunt Magic



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

FANCY FOOTWORK: Above, Niagara Falls' Kiyah Morocco (left) battles Magic's Brittany Reidy for possession during Saturday's League Cup final in Oakville. Inset right, Milton's Vanessa Machado fights for the ball against Niagara defender Stephanie Mannella.

Under-14 girls topped in League Cup final

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

They say the first cut is the deepest. Milton's Under-14 girls would strongly disagree. Losing just twice during a highly-impressive 2008 South Region Soccer League (SRSL) campaign, it was the latter of these defeats that carried far more disappointment.

That heartbreak reared its ugly head in Oakville Saturday afternoon, when the Magic were blanked 2-0 by the Niagara Falls Rage in the League Cup final.

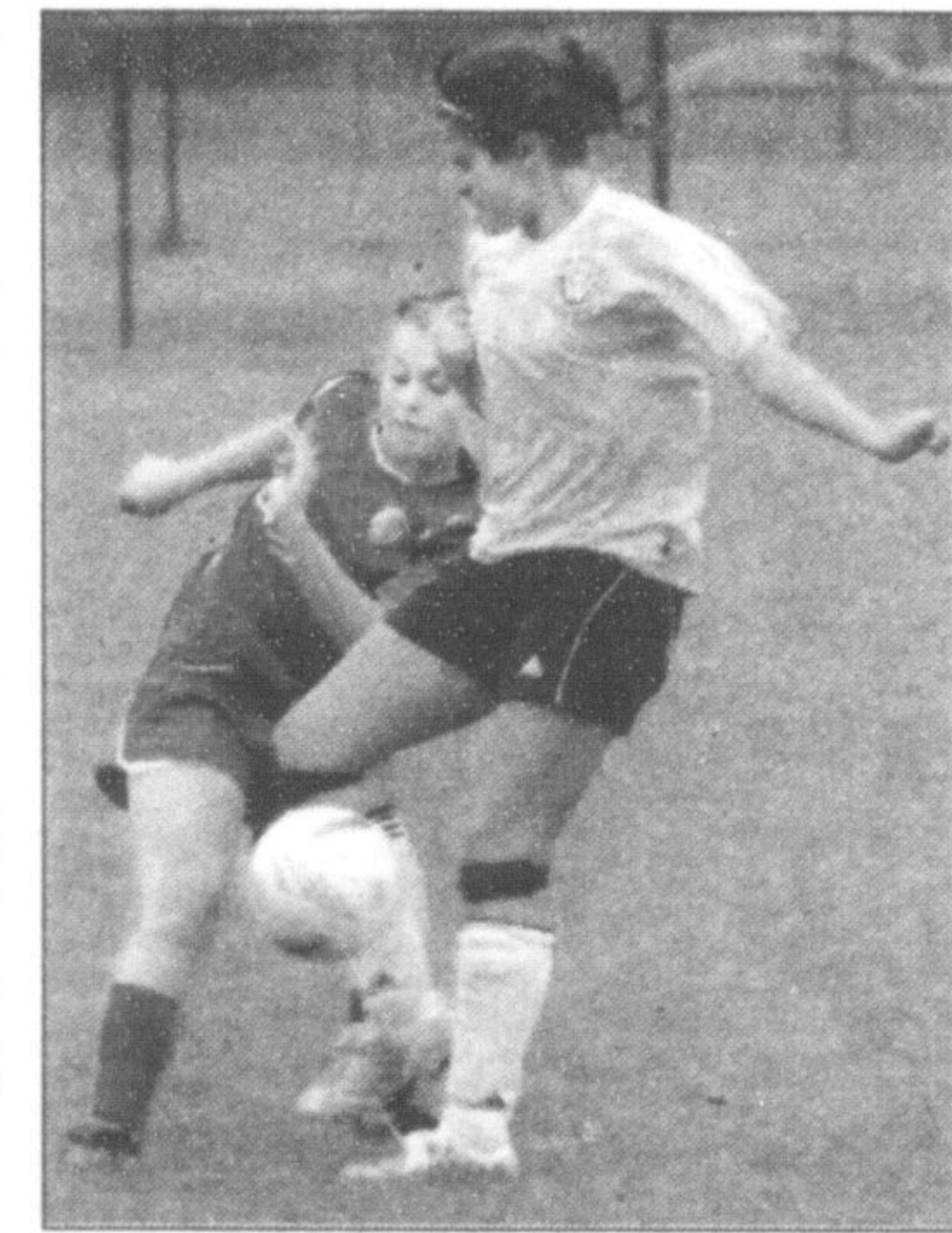
Representing Milton's last of two shots at a championship this year — following the Under-12 girls' 2-1 loss to Oakville B — the Magic held a clear-cut edge in play through the opening half, winning most of the individual battles and putting a fair amount of pressure on goalie Claire Feiertag.

But none of their half-dozen big scoring chances were converted, which Dave Saliba admits left him quite concerned at half-time.

"Missing those kind of early opportunities eventually comes back to bite

you," said Milton's head coach, whose team were finalists at the Youngstown, New York Tournament and finished first in the SRSL's Second Division with a 16-1-1 record (losing only the regular-season finale) after making the jump up from the select ranks. "We just couldn't capitalize."

Standing out during a big first half for the Magic, Rebecca Hinton delivered a couple of key centering passes from the corner and factored into at least two other chances, while Vanessa Consiglio and Emma Smith each got a couple of shots off through the early going.



Meanwhile, Milton's defence — led by Paige Dugay — put up a formidable

midfield stand through the opening 40 minutes, allowing the First Division Rage just one shot on Danielle Vella.

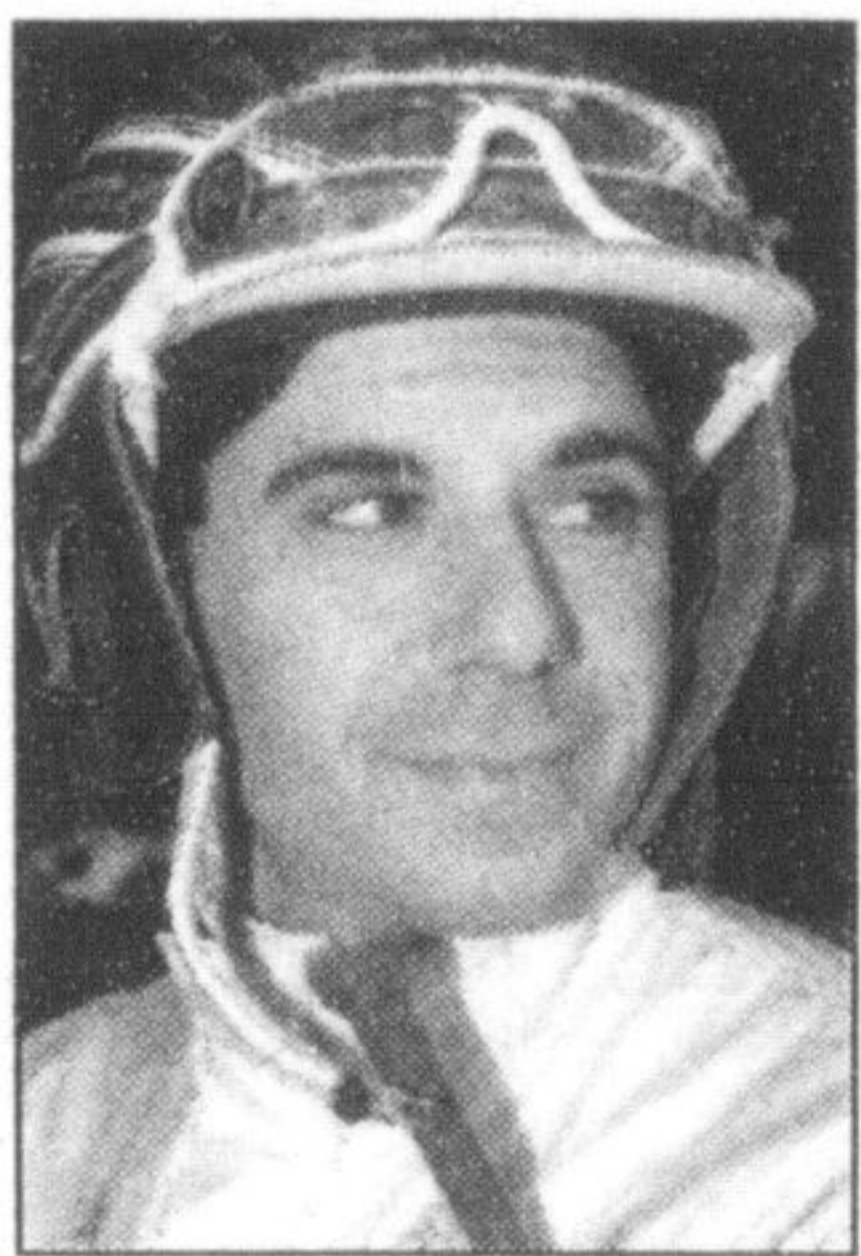
Niagara Falls would start to pick things up and really fortified its efforts after sinking the game winner 12 minutes into the second half. It came on a rising blast from the left side that went off a leaping Vella's finger tips and into the top shelf.

Enjoying all kinds of momentum over the balance of the contest, the Rage would test Milton's cager four more times, and essentially put the game away with about 13 minutes remaining — on a close-range shot into the bottom right corner.

Vella suffered a premature exit — after banging up her knee — while the Magic had a couple of brief sparks down the stretch, but couldn't regain their early control.

Brianne Molnar, Marissa Plant and Christine West were among the others who offered solid outings for the League Cup finalists.

Christoforou makes much-anticipated return to track



Chris Christoforou

Chris Christoforou makes his much-anticipated return to the race bike this weekend, after a summer spent recovering from injury.

The three-time O'Brien Award winner (Canada's Driver of the Year) last drove nearly four months ago — during a qualifying session at Mohawk — and has been off since due to a non-racing related accident.

"I fell off a ladder doing some work

outside my house," the Milton racer told Trot Insider last week, referring to his back injury.

The seasoned reinsman attempted a return in August — doing some work with local trainer Blair Burgess — but it wasn't long before he aggravated his back and was once again sidelined.

"It was frustrating. I tried to come back as early as I could, but I just needed to give it time. The last thing that I

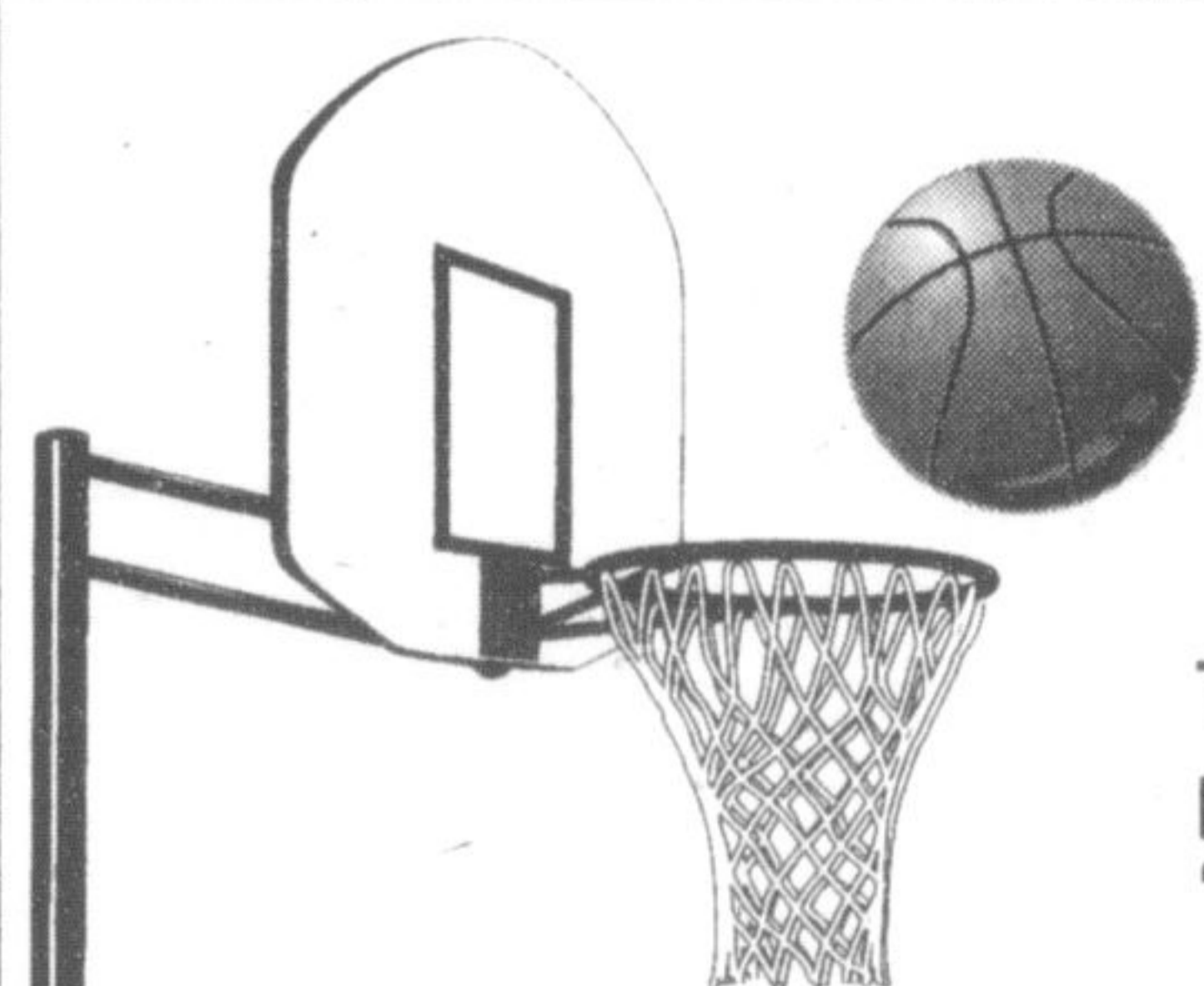
wanted to do was come back, have the injury flare up again and then have to take more time off."

"I didn't want to come back, race two days out of the week and then have to book off the rest. It wouldn't be fair to the owners, trainers or anybody."

A winner of more than 5,200 career victories and \$82 million in purses, Christoforou is scheduled to make his return this Sunday at Mohawk.

1st ANNUAL E.C. DRURY SPARTAN INSTRUCTIONAL BASKETBALL FALL SESSION 2008

This E.C. Drury basketball activity is being organized so that the basketball skills of young players in the community of Milton area will improve. This is a chance to play basketball in a 'fun' environment where learning to play the game is why we're here.



WHO: Boys and Girls in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8.
WHAT: Tuesday evenings beginning October 14, 2008 and continuing to December 02, 2008
TIMES: 6 p.m., grades 3 & 4; 7 p.m. grades 4 & 5 & 6; 8 p.m. 6, 7, & 8. (Divisions dependent on number of registrants)
WHERE: Sports Building on E.C. Drury Campus
COST: \$50.00 per player (cash or cheque)
INSTRUCTORS: Mr. Kevin Houldcroft, E.C. Drury Basketball Coach
Mr. Gerry Moynagh, E.C. Drury Basketball Coach

- Each player will receive a uniform top.
 - Each session will involve skill development activities and game time.
 - Each player will be placed on a team that plays within an appropriate grade division. E.C. Drury student-athletes will be involved in the program as team coaches. NO league standings and champions will be declared.
 - Application forms can be dropped off or picked up at E.C. Drury's office (attn. Kevin Houldcroft) from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Friday.
 - Enrollment is limited (you're in until we're full). Uniforms and team rosters are determined by early registrations. You will be notified about your starting time before the October 10th.
- Call the E.C. Drury Phys. Ed. Department at 905-691-9796 for further information.**

Annual General Meeting
Oct. 18, 2007
9:30am - 11:00am
**Sports Center
Banquet Room**



**MILTON MINOR
BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**
905-876-2288 or visit us online at
www.milton-baseball.org