

Milton sweeps Halton boys volleyball titles

Hadfield's Tier 1 win déjà vu of North Halton championship

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Chris Hadfield Hawks had just humbled Stewarttown 25-8 in the first set of Halton's Tier 1 boys volleyball championship, and appeared headed for an easy sweep.

Jeff Chaisson knew better.

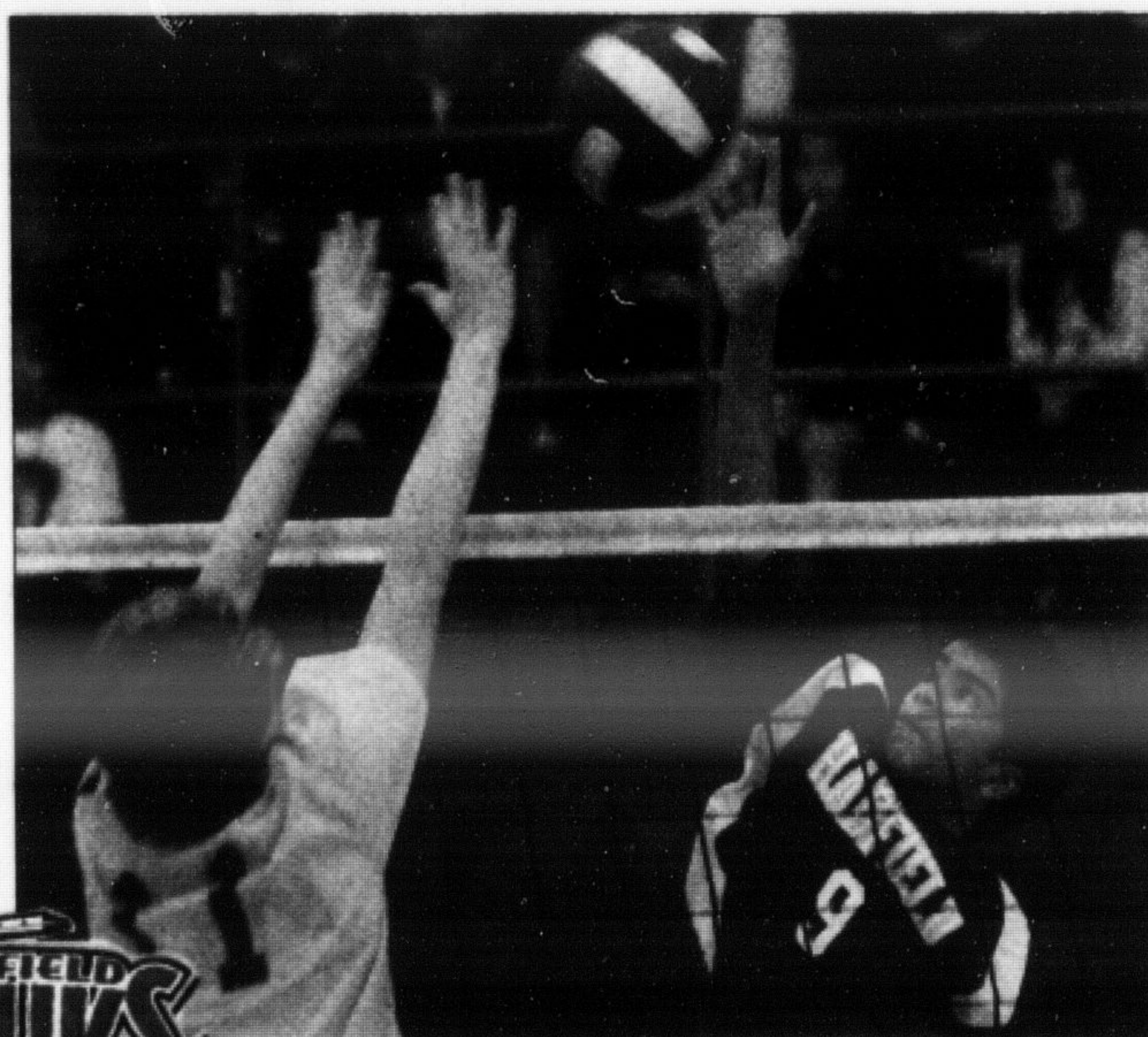
"They (Stingers) were our toughest opponent all year.

They always push us hard. That (lopsided game) was an anomaly," said the Hawks' co-coach at E.C. Drury High School Thursday night.

The assessment proved quite accurate, as the Stingers — who'd fallen to Hadfield in the North Halton finals a week earlier — offered much greater resistance in the second game, and led by as much as five points through the early going.

Unbeaten in league play this year, the Hawks would eventually rally for a 25-20 title triumph, but not before surviving one last surge by their neighbouring rivals.

But Hadfield was hardly a stranger to close games this fall, having placed top eight at last month's provincials and outlasted West Oak in an epic



STEVEN DER-GARABEDIAN / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION
NET GAINS: Chris Hadfield's Vijashan Raveendradas delivers a hit against Nick Spencer of Stewarttown.

31-29 game-one thriller that highlighted a two-set semifinal sweep.

Said co-coach Alyssa Merritt, "That was definitely our most nerve-wracking game, but these guys don't get rattled. When we fell behind in game two (against Stewarttown) it wasn't surprising that they held it together."

A couple of late hits in game two by co-captain Vijashan Raveendradas put the championship away for the Hawks, who've now appeared in the last three regional finals — having lost last year after winning their first Halton pennant in 2009.

Co-captain Luca Leustean stood tall offensively through much of the deciding set, which followed an

uncharacteristic one-sided affair between the North Halton powerhouses.

Stewarttown didn't get even two consecutive points in the first set.

Karan Uppal and Max Hewitson provided some big serves in the finals, while topnotch efforts from every Hawk were needed to survive the opening set of the semifinals — by far the excitement highlight of the night.

Hawthorne Village's girls made it to the Tier 1 semifinals, where big serving did them in against eventual champion Silver Creek of Georgetown. The 25-12, 25-12 semifinal was a rematch of the North Halton final, also won by the Storm.

Hawthorne Village grounds Eagles to lay claim to Tier 2 pennant

Hawthorne Village's boys volleyball team fell just short of the North Halton Tier 2 championship, but wouldn't be denied when the big prize was up for grabs.

Still stinging from a 15-13 tiebreaking loss at the hands of Tiger Jeet Singh one week earlier, the Huskies turned the tide on their cross-town rival last Tuesday at E.C. Drury High School — rallying from a game-one defeat to take the Halton semifinals in another three-set encounter.

From there, the title win seemed almost anti-climatic, as Hawthorne Village — continuing to exhibit great communication and composure — pulled off a 25-22, 25-13 sweep of Oakville's Eastview Eagles.

"After coming so close in the North Halton finals, we knew we could beat them (Tiger Jeet Singh)," noted Huskies head coach John DeFrancesco. "The guys really came together as a team."

Despite re-aggravating a thumb injury in the semifinals, Hawthorne Village's Grade 8 anchor Rylee Buckle delivered some formidable hitting through the championship showdown, which was marked with some



STEVEN DER-GARABEDIAN / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

HANDS UP: Hawthorne Village's Rylee Buckle goes up for a block.

key blocking and a strong showing at the service line.

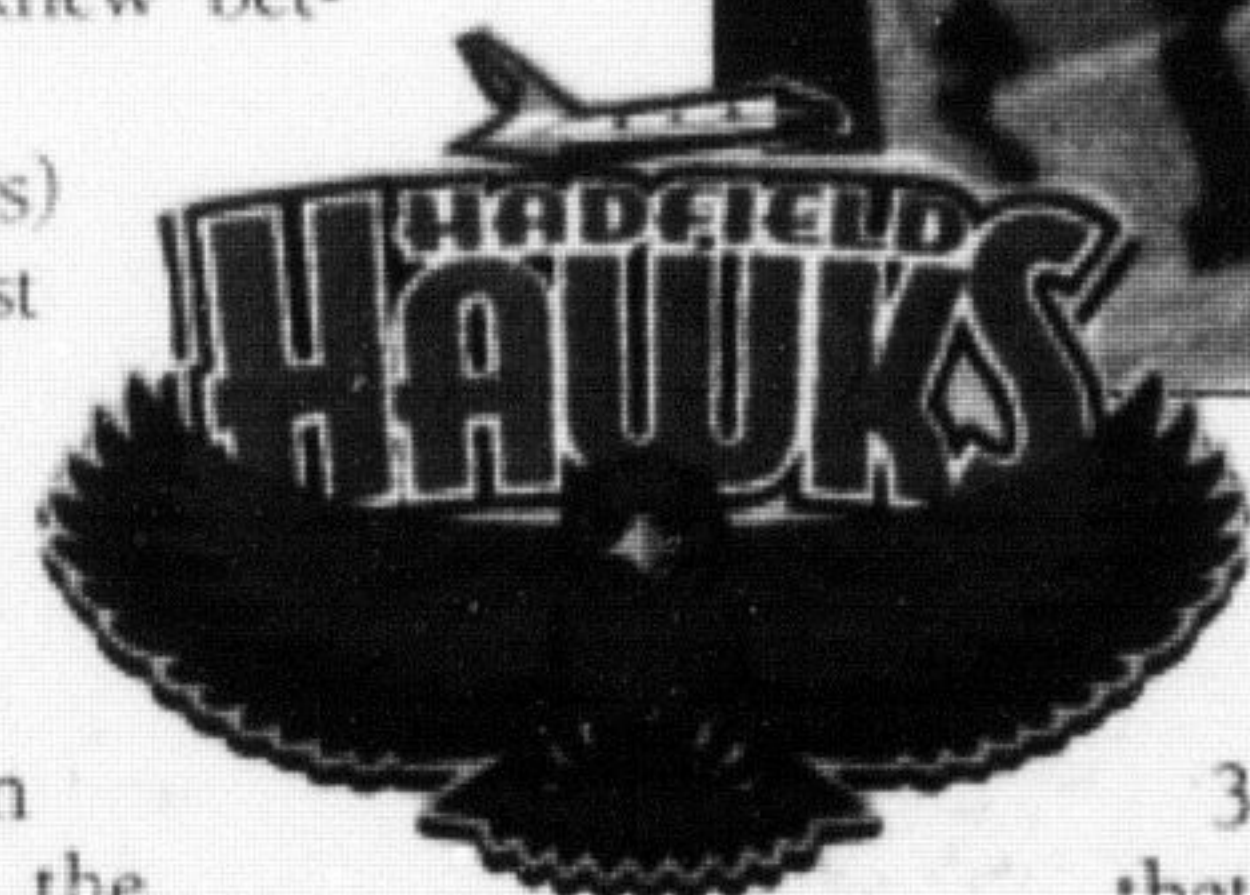
Sixth grader Aaron Nash would shine from that spot in the semis, reeling off six ace serves to help vanquish a Tigers team that was missing one of its star players.

In girls play, the Chris Hadfield Hawks came within a match of claiming Halton Tier 2 supremacy.

They too reached the final with a win over a fellow Milton rival — avenging their North Halton final loss with a 25-20, 25-17 win over W.I. Dick — but fell 25-13, 25-23 to Oakville's Forest Trail Coyotes.

The Hawks mounted a spirited comeback in game two, but Forest Trail's distinct size advantage eventually did them in.

The game saw a number of extended rallies and some great athletic play.



Serving people like you is what makes our business special.

Thank you.

State Farm



Edward Gruscyk Ins Agcy Ltd

Ed Gruscyk, Agent
2800 Skymark Avenue, # 1
Mississauga, ON L4W 5A6

Bus: 905-602-6666 Toll Free: 800-363-4431

Mówimy po polsku

State Farm • Canadian Head Office, Aurora, Ontario

10Y0144

Clarke's Golf
www.clarkesgolf.com

TAYLORMADE WHITE SALE
GIVE THE GIFT OF DISTANCE.
CHECK OUT THE LOWEST PRICES OF THE SEASON

Green Fee Passport Books
Lots of 2 for 1 coupons \$59.95

- BAGS
- GLOVES
- PUTTERS
- DRIVERS
- RAINSUITS
- NHL HATS
- KIDS CLUBS
- BALLS
- TRAVEL COVERS

Follow Clarke's Golf on Facebook

NEW LOCATION

307A Steeles Ave., Milton
(Between Ontario and Martin Streets)

905-878-1818