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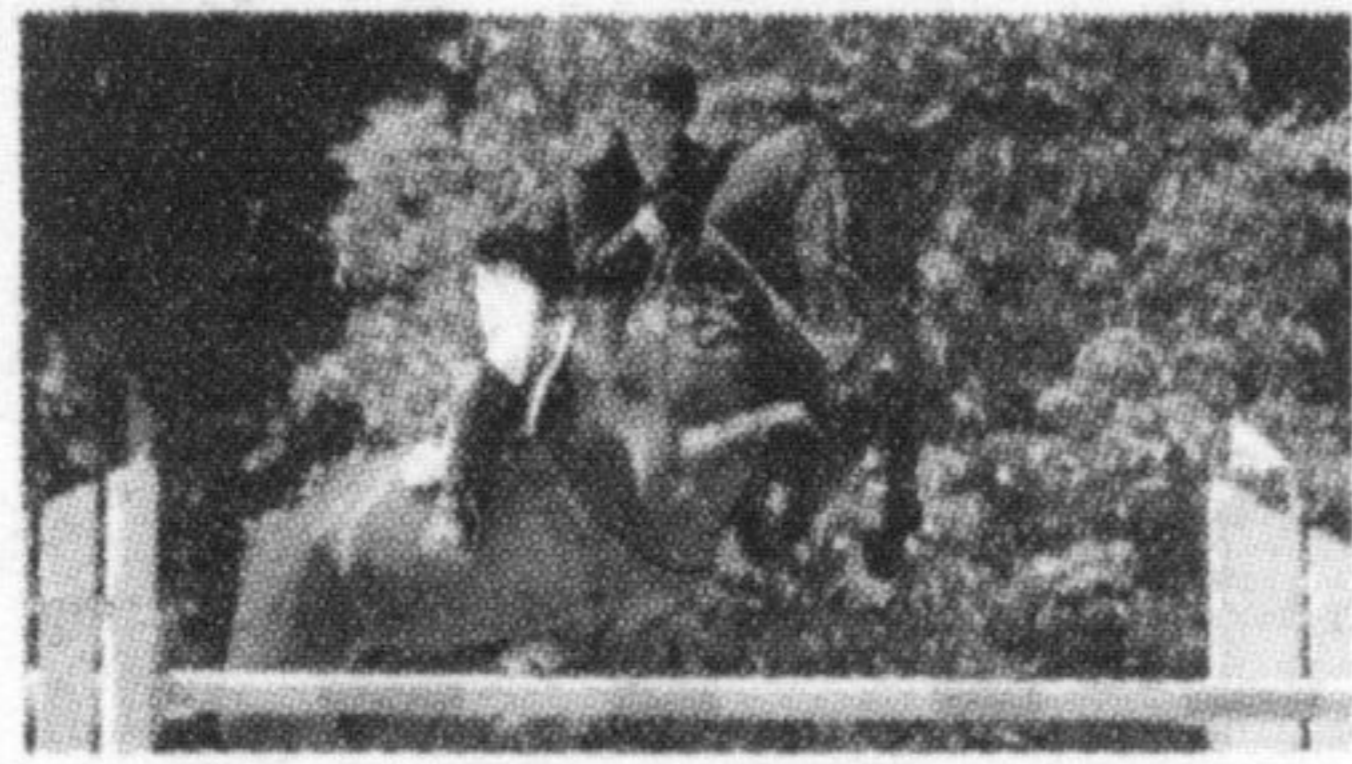
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A & E

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ERIC RIEHL / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

O CANADA: Olympian Jason Burnett performs a manoeuvre during the Soaring Heights Trampoline Show, which was part of Canada Day celebrations at the Milton Fair Grounds Wednesday. Organizers say although there were fewer people out for the night's fireworks because of the rain, attendance in the afternoon topped previous years. See more photos on page B14.

Robbery over in 15 seconds

'Guys came out of nowhere'

By Stephanie Hounsell
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

One of the victims in last Friday's mass armed robbery of 10 young adults at a skateboard park estimates the entire ordeal took no longer than 15 seconds — although it's hard to measure time with a semi-automatic gun pointed at you, he said.

"It was really quick. They were obviously organized," said the young man, who wanted to remain anonymous.

One week after four masked males held up a group of young people at the skate park on Thompson Road, just south of Main Street, no arrests have been made — as of press time yesterday — and the incident continues to concern police and residents.

"There was no previous confrontation," said Det. Sgt. Murray Drinkwater. "It was just an out-of-the-blue, heinous attack."

The victim who spoke to the *Champion* said he was minding his own business, hanging out with his friends — young men and women between 18 to 25, all but two from Milton — with their skateboards and bikes at about 11:35 p.m. when "these

four guys came out of nowhere." The masked robbers, who were armed with a black handgun, a knife and a bat, told the victims to hand over personal possessions, which they did.

"We were pretty compliant," he said. "What are you going to do when they have a gun? It's just a phone, just a wallet, they can all be replaced."

He said one of his friends — a 20-year-old Georgetown man — was forced to the ground and stabbed in the shoulder. He didn't know why that friend was targeted.

A 19-year-old Milton woman was cut when a bottle was thrown at her by one of the suspects.

The four robbers ran off and someone in the group called police, the victim said.

They were all in shock.

"I've lived in Mississauga and downtown (Toronto) and this has never happened to me," he said.

The man who was stabbed was taken to hospital and released. Police attended and a canine search ensued but was unsuccessful.

The victim said he felt it was important to go public.

"I want people to know what happened and for the people who did this to know it's not being taken lightly," he said.

• see INCIDENT on page A3

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