

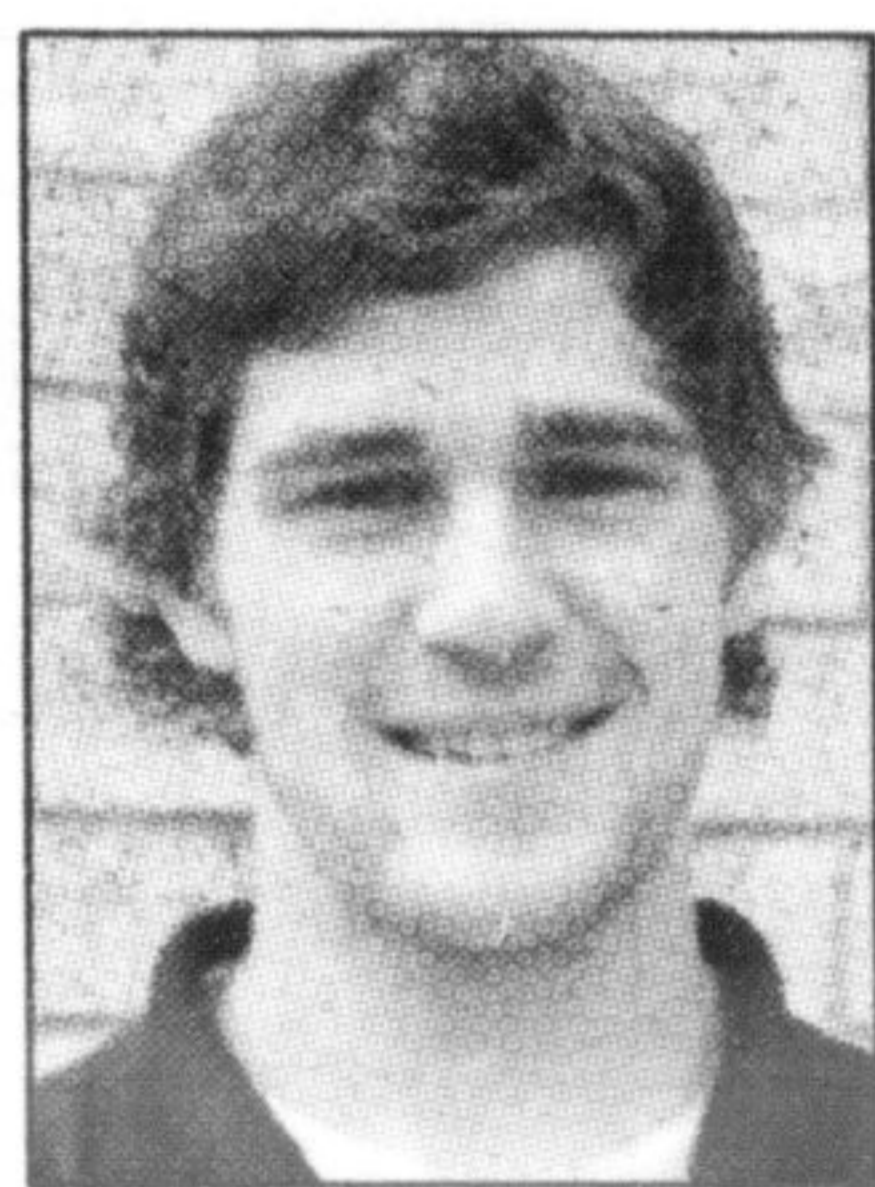
SPORTS

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Productive playoff start for O'Connor

Junior lacrosse veteran lights it up for Bulldogs

Halton Hills' Jr. B lacrosse team steam-rolled past its first playoff hurdle, thanks in no small part to its resident Miltonian.



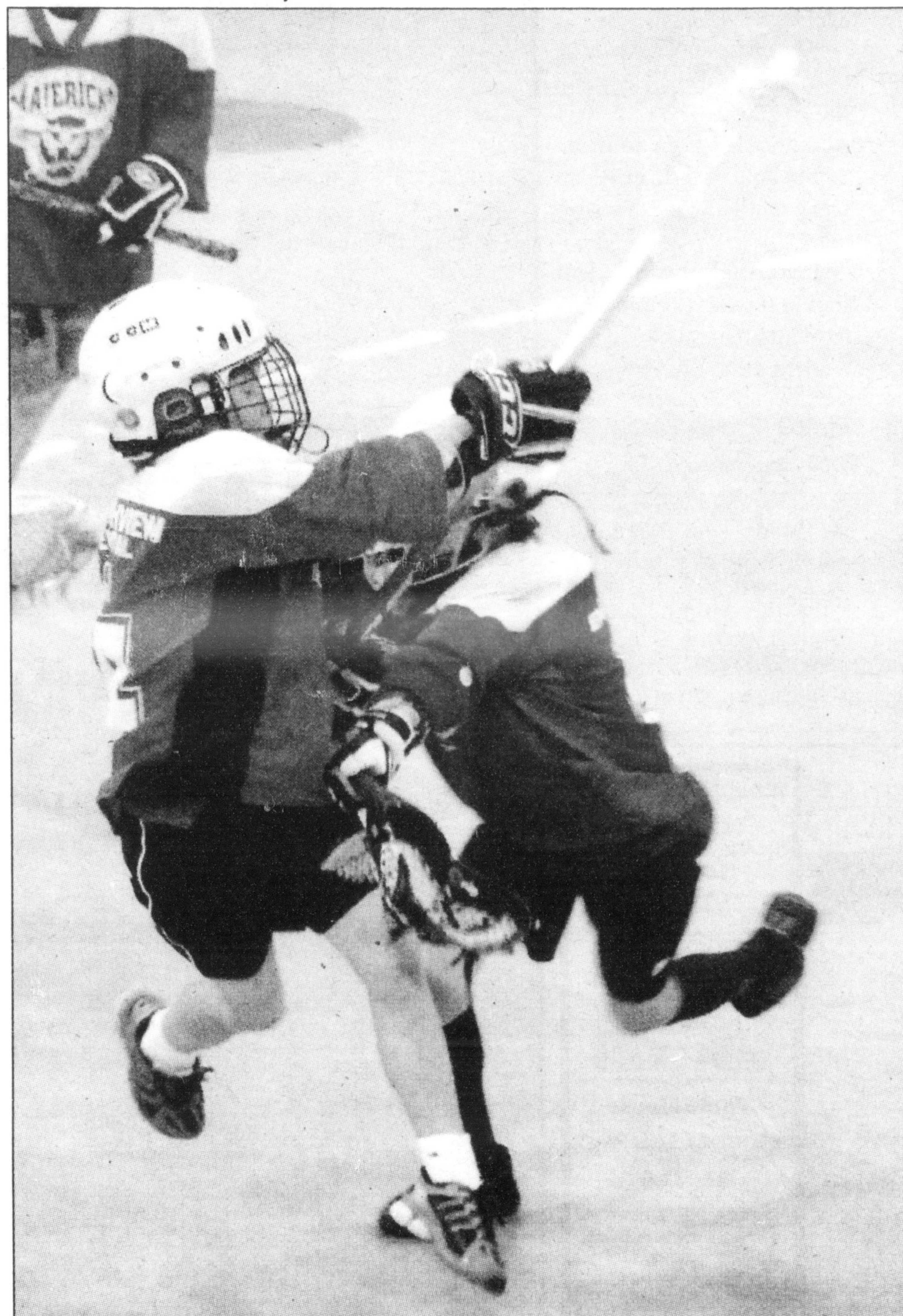
Ethan O'Connor

Stepping up his production at just the right time, 19-year-old Ethan O'Connor amassed 11 points — second most for the team — in the Bulldogs' three-game sweep of Orillia. He had two goals and a pair of assists in Saturday's 16-2 series clincher, in which Halton Hills put things away early with a 7-0 first period.

A fourth-year Jr. B veteran, O'Connor has six goals thus far in post-season play, including one of the shorthanded variety and two that were unassisted.

Among the most well-rounded players in the division, O'Connor has been pulling double duty on the junior lacrosse scene this season — helping out the Jr. A Burlington Chiefs as well. He's played 14 games with them, counting two goals and seven assists along the way. He finished the Jr. B regular season with 13 goals and 13 assists in 15 games.

O'Connor and the Bulldogs will now take on Newmarket, starting Saturday at Georgetown's Mold-Masters SportsPlex.



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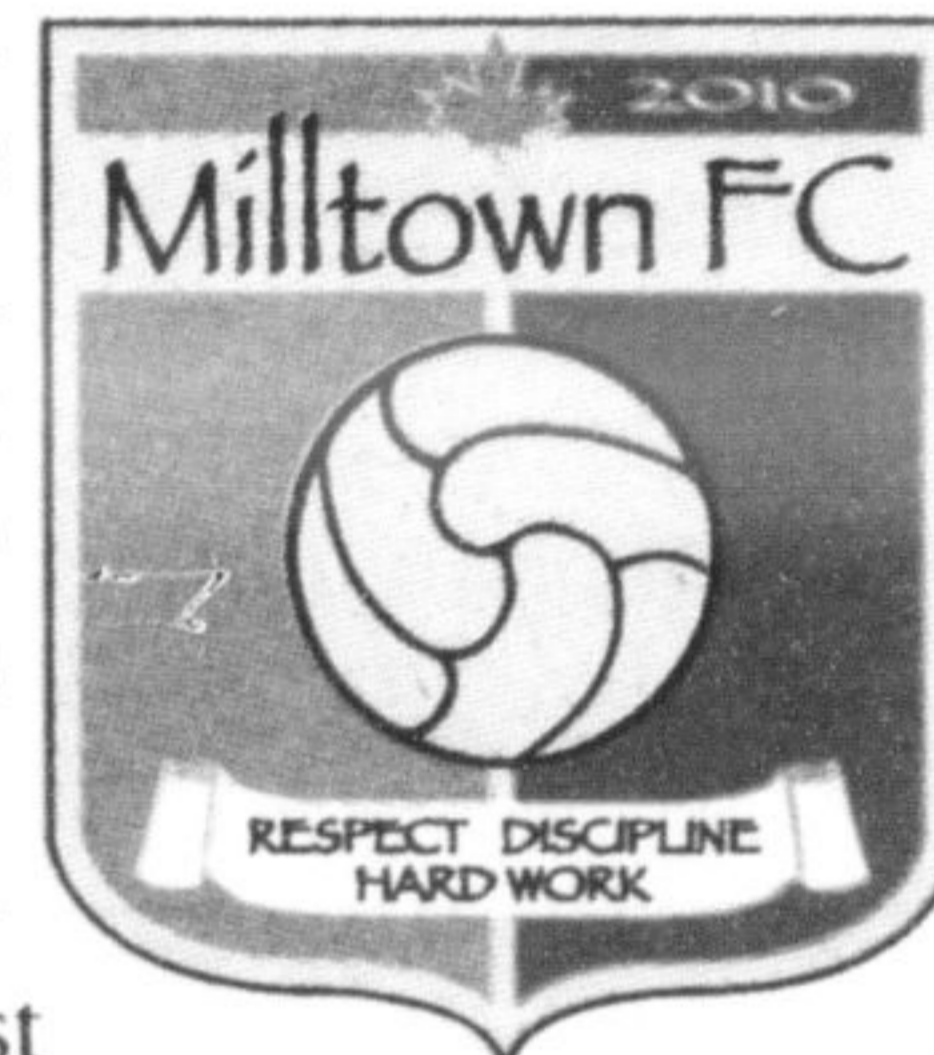
HEAVY HITTER: Jack Abrams of the Red team gets off a shot as he's checked by Blue's Zach Tarr in tyke championship play during the Milton Lacrosse Association's House-League Day of Champions at Memorial Arena. Blue prevailed 9-5. Red dumped Navy 11-3 for the peewee/bantam title, White won the novice crown with a 10-5 decision over Blue and Yellow edged Red 5-4 for peanut division bragging rights.

MFC knocks off league leaders

Big comeback win has expansion club just a point out of first place

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

It's hard to say what was more promising — the win itself or the manner in which it was delivered. Fortifying their efforts in the second half and enjoying a huge clutch performance by substitute Cordell Benjamin, Milltown FC rallied from a late deficit to edge the front-running York Region Shooters 2-1 Friday night at Bishop Reding Field — pulling to within a point of the Canadian Soccer League (CSL) penthouse.




Now 5-2-3, the local expansion club is undefeated in its last six games and has scored a dozen times in its last four outings after potting just three goals in its first six contests.

"Yes, we're scoring more these days, but honestly we're exceeding expectations over the entire 110 yards of the field. It's amazing," said president and co-owner Dino Rossi, following his team's first comeback victory of 2010.

Added goalkeeper and captain Scott Cliff, "It's (early success) a pleasant surprise, all right. With a new club, you don't really expect to be quite where we are right now, but I think that tie and win to start gave us the boost we needed. It's great that we've been able to find the back of the net so much lately. Not that it takes the pressure off me, but it does make my life easier. One of the big things recently is that the subs have come in and really done their jobs."

Offering the best example to date of that Friday, Benjamin came in midway through the second half and scored his first two goals of the season within six minutes of each other. Showing significant improvement in recent weeks after struggling with the pace of the CSL out of the gate, the 20-year-old Kitchener striker buried an upstairs blast off an Erick Olazabal feed to tie things


• see MIDFIELDERS on page A15



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