

SPORTS

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ON THE RUN: Milton District's Ben Millar heads up field during senior football play against Aldershot Friday. The Mustangs prevailed 30-7. See story on page A15.

NIKKI WESLEY / METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

MFC bid for final 4 falls one goal short

Edged by Portugal FC in quarterfinals

Milltown FC rediscovered its scoring touch, just not quite enough of it to keep its inaugural season alive.

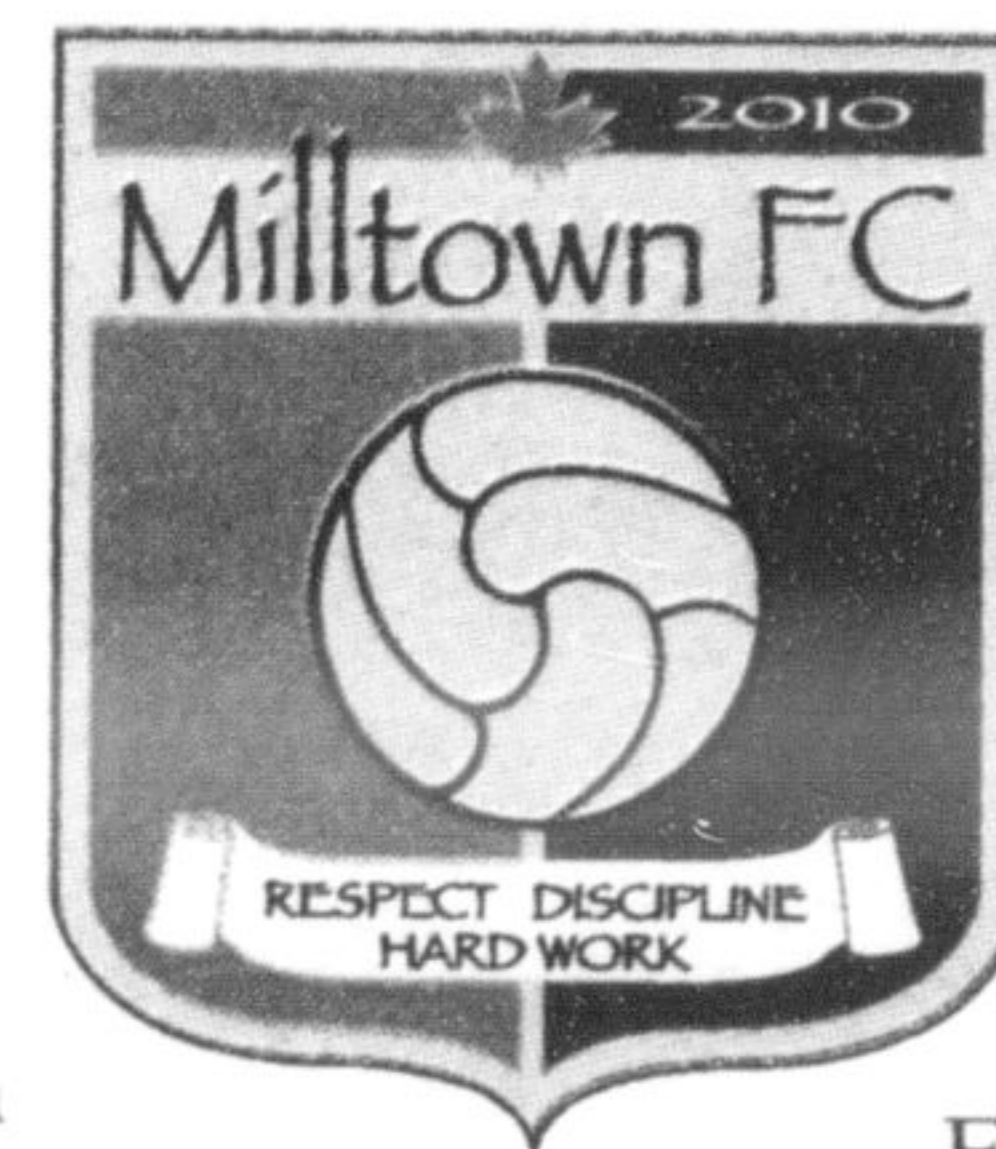
On the heels of back-to-back shutout defeats — its longest losing streak of the year — the local expansion club held a pair of second-half leads in its must-win quarterfinal clash at Toronto's Lamport Stadium Saturday evening.

However, Portugal FC managed to even the count each time — potting the final equalizer with less than 10 minutes to go — and close things out in a 2-2 deadlock. This gave the hosts narrow advancement to the semifinals, as MFC had been edged 1-0 in the two-game, total-goals-wins opener last Tuesday.

"We're obviously disappointed to go out in the first round, but we fought hard tonight and went out

with our heads held high," said president and co-owner Dino Rossi, whose team went 12-5-7 in the regular season — finishing fourth, and just three points out of top spot, in the Canadian Soccer League.

Among MFC's key mid-season pick-ups, forward Martin Artale scored both goals in the do-or-die showdown. His second of the night — a blistering 16-yard strike — came in the 75th minute, shortly after Portugal FC squared things up.



Making Portugal FC's 85th-minute equalizer

all the more heartbreaking was that it came on a penalty kick following a hand-ball infraction.

Artale put the visitors ahead late in the first half on a rebound header, set up by a fierce header from Thierry Mangwa-Batomen that Portugal FC keeper Mike Silva couldn't quite handle.

Despite missing midfield anchor Martijn Kuijpers, out with a torn ligament in his ankle, MFC controlled most of the game and had numerous quality scoring opportunities. Among them was a low roller by scoring leader Lesly St. Fleur that just went wide and a 25-yard strike off the crossbar by Brian Alcantara in the dying moments of play.

Sunday marked just the fifth time this season that netminding captain Scott Cliff surrendered more than a goal. It also saw the first team debut of 16-year-old Milton native Sanjar Kairosh, who fared well in a near full-game replacement of Kuijpers.

Reding's b-ball juniors looking like D-1 title contender



By Herb Garbutt
METROLAND WEST MEDIA GROUP

Two years ago, the Holy Rosary Hawks ran off 24 straight wins on their way to the Halton Catholic elementary school girls basketball title.

Now with eight members of that team having graduated to the Bishop

Reding Royals junior squad, the team is again looking to hoist a championship trophy.

They won't go undefeated — the Royals dropped a 49-37 decision to Abbey Park two weeks ago — but with a 38-26 victory over the Oakville Trafalgar Red Devils Thursday, BR improved to 5-1 and have established

themselves as a frontrunner for the Halton Division 1 junior crown.

Grade 9s Marina Furik, Danielle Vis and Hayley Schroder have joined former Holy Rosary teammate Adina Moodie, who had a game-high 12 points against OT, in the starting lineup. That familiarity with one another has helped Bishop



• see CHEMISTRY on page A15

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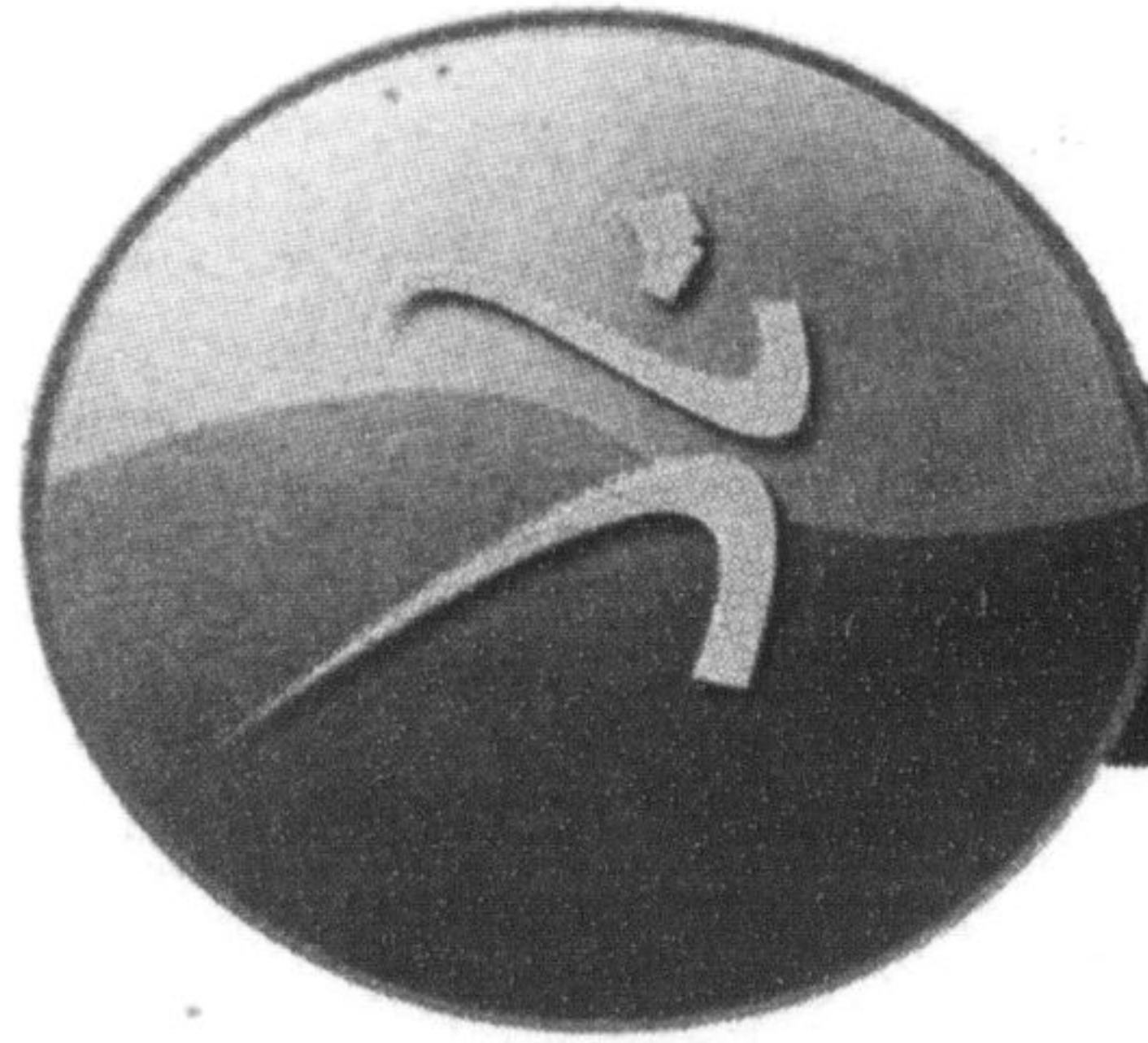
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