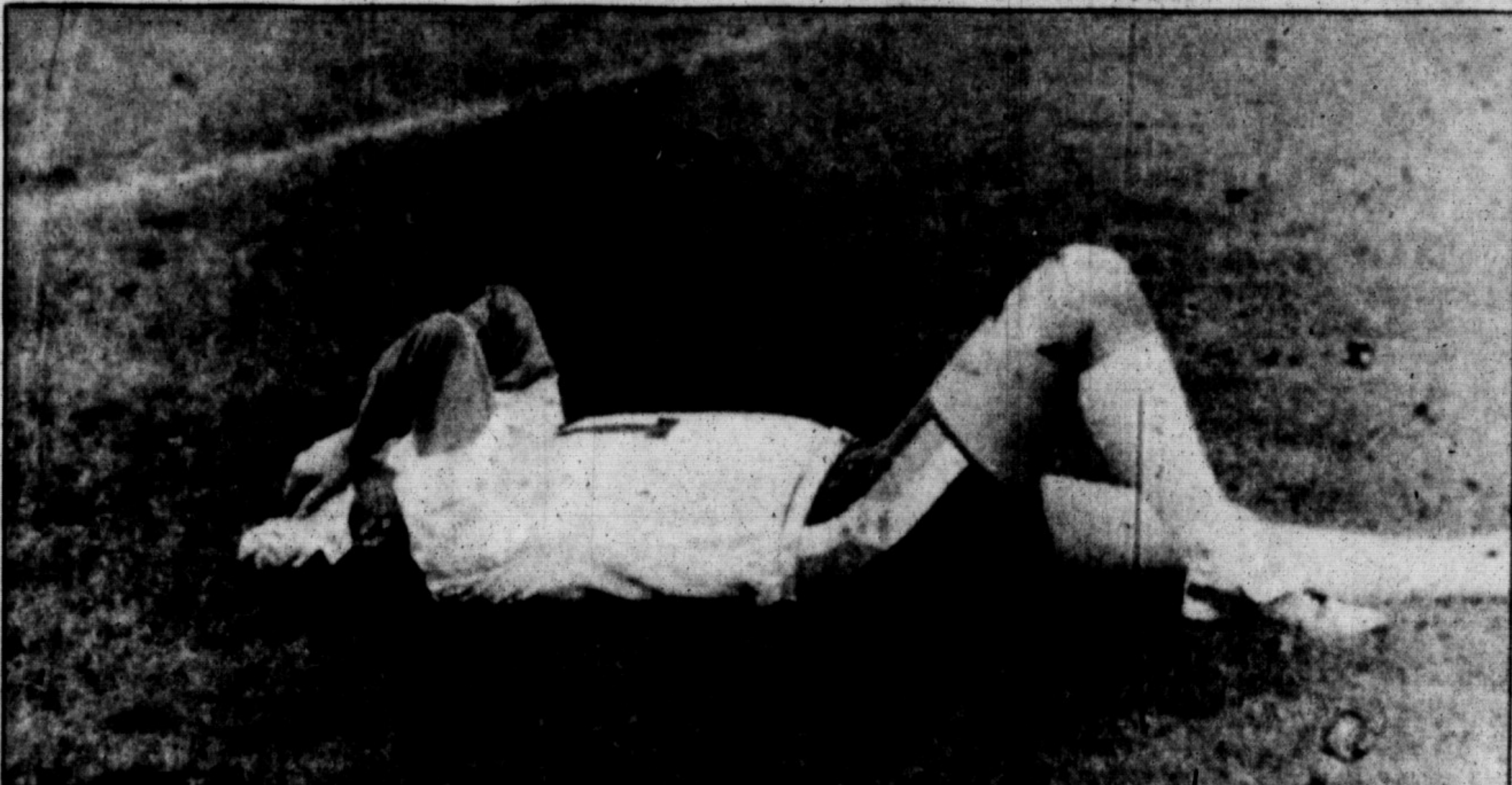


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It was the agony and the ecstasy Saturday at Milton District High School as the Charles Hotel defeated Halton Pools by one point for the flag football championship. The game was decided on one play. At top left Rob Scott appears to be getting by a Halton Pools defender. At the right Randy Johnson uncorks the celebration bubbly after the game. At bottom left holder Brian McPhail is seen reacting to Halton Pools' blocked field goal attempt on the last play of the game.

Charles Hotel pulls it off — but barely

By STEVE LEACHMAN

The Charles Hotel became the 1986 Milton Flag Football champions with a 21-20 victory over Halton Pool and Patio Saturday.

In one of the best league finals in recent memory, the Charles Hotel squad, second over the regular schedule, ended the dream of Halton Pools to become the first sixth-place team in league history to win the title.

For the Cinderella Halton Pool club, the clock struck midnight at 59:58 of the game. At the Charles three-yard line, with a win or a tie seemingly guaranteed, a bobbled snap meant the Charles defence could immediately rush, and the Charles' Randy Johnson blocked the field goal attempt to snatch victory from the jaws of defeat.

There was no doubt a muddy field and inclement weather hindered both teams as second-half scoring was limited to one second-half touchdown and convert by the Charles Hotel. Scored in the third quarter, the convert ultimately decided the contest.

The game opened looking like it could be a high-scoring shootout type of final as both teams posted touchdowns on their first two possessions of the game.

The Charles opened the scoring on a 25-yard touchdown pass from quarterback Kevin Prendergast to Rob Scott. But Halton Pools came right back with a drive of their own, capped by a Mike Kindy to Jim McAlinden toss to tie the score at six. Both teams missed the converts.

The Charles came right back and hit again with a six-pointer to Terry Houghton, followed by a two-point conversion to Wayne St. John, to take a 14-6 lead.

The lead was short-lived as Paul Jarvie hit for six and Ron Flint added a two-point conversion to knot the score at 14 with the game still in the first quarter.

The play went back and forth in the second quarter as the drizzle continued and the ball became hard to handle for both teams.

Halton Pools' Terry Koch grabbed an interception at the Charles' 35-yard line but the pool men were unable to convert. The Charles missed scoring on a couple of dropped passes in the Halton end zone.

With the half coming to a close Halton struck on a a Kindy to Flint pass-and-run combination for six points. The convert was missed and the half ended with Halton Pools sporting a 20-14 lead.

Halton Pools missed two glorious chances to open the lead early in the third quarter and the Charles regained the lead late in the quarter as Prendergast hit Terry Houghton for Houghton's second major of the game. At this point, Don Campbell added a convert, the point that was later to end up being the margin of victory.

With the Charles holding a tenuous 21-20 lead, both teams exhibited strong defence in the final quarter and neither team was able to sustain any strong drives.

Howard Mott came up with an interception for the Charles to snuff a

Halton drive. Dennis Gluck of the Charles hit for a 40-yard gain but Halton's defence prevented the score.

With less than a minute to play, Halton Pools drove from their own 35-yard line to inside the Charles Hotel 10-yard line. A sure touchdown pass to Halton's Jim Monaghan was tipped away by Prendergast in the end zone.

With one play left, Halton set up for the field goal attempt that would assure victory, or if missed send the game into overtime.

With Halton kicker Dave Sweetland ready for the chip shot field goal fate stepped in.

The wet ball slipped from the holder's hands, hit the ground, and was quickly re-set. But not in time. The kick didn't clear the mass of charging Charles players, led by Johnson, and the game was over with the Charles as champions.

As the season ends with a game that, as the old adage goes, "both teams deserved to win," Halton Pool and Patio can walk away with their heads held high. As the league awards dance on Sept. 27 will show, there are no losers in the flag football league. On any given day anyone can win, and flag football is alive and well in our town. Thanks to all the players, the league executive and the referees for making the 1986 season one of the most successful in years.

Locals will help defend national jiu-jitsu title

Three people from Milton may ultimately decide whether Canada wins a world title in England.

Because Terry Rowley, Stewart Jones and Steve Drew of the Milton Jiu-Jitsu club will be battling as the country's representatives Oct. 4 in London, England.

In that meet the Canadian Jiu-Jitsu team, only six athletes in all, will take on between 12 and 16 other countries for the right to call themselves world champions.

The event happens only every two years, and at the inaugural meet two

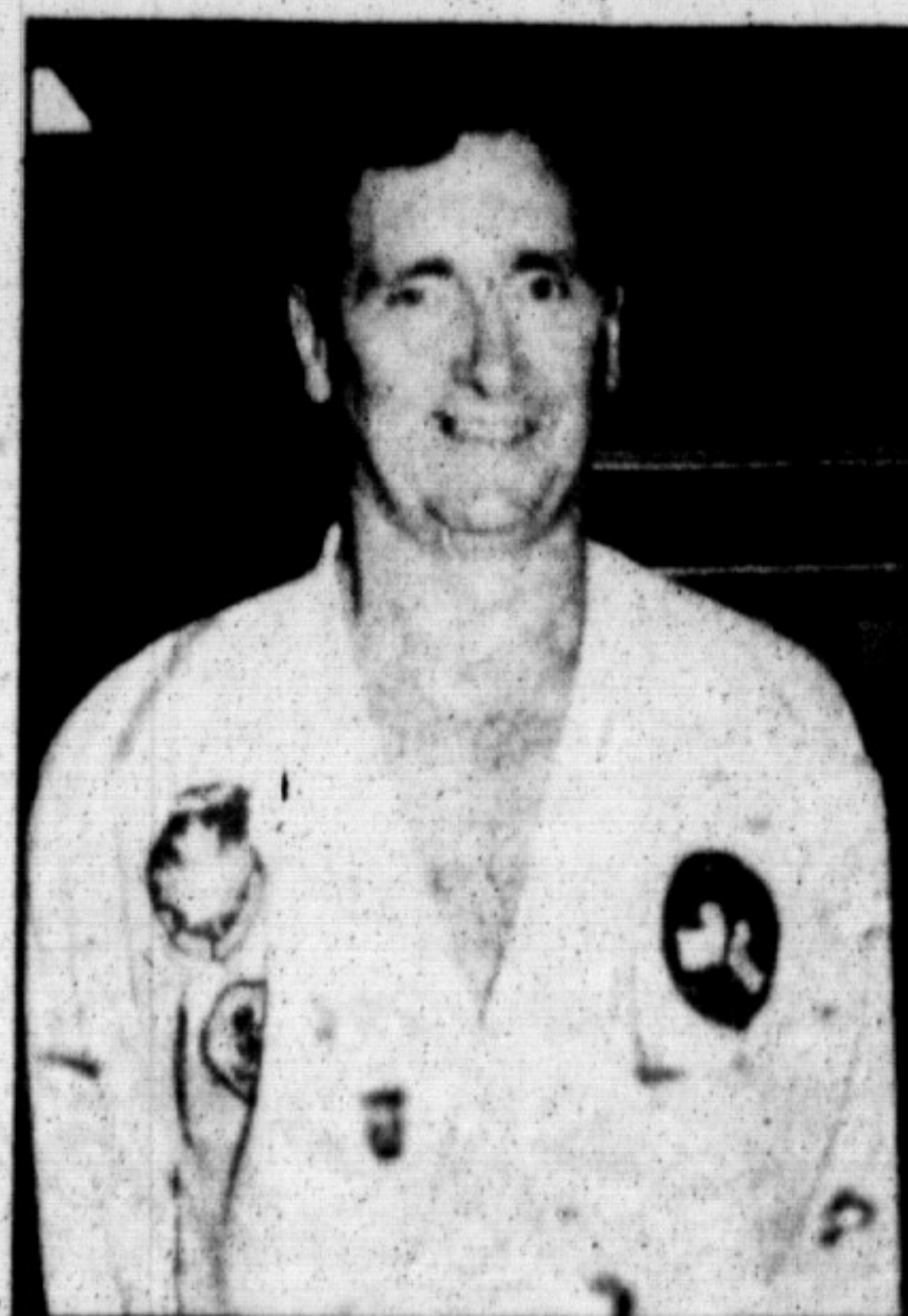
years ago Canada emerged as world champions.

But many countries viewed them as a dark horse winner, and told Milton jiu-jitsu founder and chief sensei Bob Kranzstz they would be ready for him and his crew next time.

But Kranzstz and his people are ready too.

They've been training for months, and each Milton member of the team claimed to be in peak competitive form. But Kranzstz has no illusions of a cakewalk for Canada.

"The competition will be tougher, definitely, he said, "especially from



Bob Kranzstz

Europe. They have so many to pick from." It was a competitor from England, the host country, who told Kranzstz "Next time we'll be ready for you."

"We've been taking that at what it's worth and we've been training harder," Kranzstz said.

The Canadian team is a mixture of experience and youth, Kranzstz said, and the Milton contingent reflects that.

"We have young blood trying to make a name," Kranzstz pointed out.

"But at the same time the team is fairly experienced in international competition."

Kranzstz, who is going as a coach, an official and also competing in the newly created "Masters" category, is the most experienced of all. He was on the team that went to Hawaii in 1977, on two international tournament teams at the CNE, on the team that competed against the USA and

Trinidad, on the team that competed internationally in Florida in 1983 and he was an official at the inaugural world championship event.

The Canadian team won all those competitions.

The squad has suffered a setback, however. Gerry Knowles, formerly Kranzstz's pupil and an accomplished jiu-jitsu teacher in his own right, was injured recently (pinched nerve) and it is highly unlikely he will make the London trip.

"He's a big part of the experience we have," Kranzstz said, "we were depending on him." At 35, Knowles, who teaches in Oakville, was to be the captain of the team. To compound the loss, he will not be replaced and others on the six-man team will fight in his place.

Knowles won't be replaced because a series of qualifying tournaments was held to determine team members and it's too late to hold another. And, Kranzstz said, there are too many people all more or less equally qualified to make a fair choice among them.

The tournament is strictly black belts, with minimum contact for scoring. Kranzstz expects the United States to be strong, and Trinidad, and that the Europeans, on what amounts to their home turf, will come in with a large and powerful contingent.

The English have obtained the equivalent of \$40,000 to promote the event from their government, Kranzstz said. Some of that money has been used for training expenses and to pay the expenses of some of their better fighters, in order to insure their presence at the meet. "We expect them to be waving the flag," Kranzstz said.

But the defending champions will be doing some flag-waving of their own. As well as rigorous physical training, with a strong emphasis on aerobic fitness, the team has worked



Stewart Jones

on honing their mental preparedness.

"There's a lot of mental stress in a tournament like this," Kranzstz said. "The months and months of training, all the money, all the time. And it could come down to a one-minute fight. Everybody's afraid of something. Afraid of getting hit, or of losing, or of hitting the other guy too hard."

Recognizing and dealing with those fears is what separates the winners from the losers. On that score, Kranzstz feels assured with the Canadian team. "I'm as confident in this team as I have been in any other one. But I'm not as confident in the outcome."

"It gets tougher all the time," Kranzstz said. "Every time you win it gets tougher. Your reputation gets bigger and bigger, and they always say second place tries harder. These young guys will be carrying on a Canadian tradition. Guys like Gerry

and I built it, and we depend on them to carry it on."

The three Milton athletes, Drew, Jones and Rowley, bring different skills to the competition.

"Steve's a bit older (28) he has a lot of confidence," Kranzstz said. "He's been in international competition before. He's not fast and flashy but he's strong. And he thinks it out. He doesn't make mistakes. And he has a very positive attitude. He just doesn't know losing."

Rowley (34) has been a black belt for only a year. "But he's been very active in tournaments," Kranzstz said. "He's put in hours and hours of training. He's got good hand techniques, average foot techniques, but very good combinations."

Jones will turn 18 during the flight to England. He is the youngest on the team. "He has youth, size and strength," Kranzstz said. "His only weak point is his confidence, as with all youth. But he's got it all. I hope he can use it."

As the training narrows to the final few days, Kranzstz and the others try to put everything concerning the tournament, except winning, out of their minds.

"There's no room for second thoughts," he said. "When we're there we're going to do our best, there's no other way. And should it ever happen that we lose, everyone is going to come back knowing they've done their best." And then Kranzstz added with a smile, "and we'll blame it on the officials."

Notes: Team members are covering a good deal of their own expenses for the trip to England. The Canadian Jiu-Jitsu Association is paying the air fare but there are still a good many outstanding expenses. Anyone wishing to make donations can contact Kranzstz through the Milton Jiu-Jitsu club at 878-1074.

Clark is coming to Jr. B opener

Milton hockey fans will have a chance to meet the man many people thought should have been NHL rookie-of-the-year Friday night at Memorial Arena.

Because Wendel Clark will be coming to town, and so will Greg Terrion. The two Toronto Maple Leaf hockey players will drop the puck as Milton's Jr. B hockey team, the Merchants, takes on rival Oakville.

The game itself might well be an interesting contest too. There is no love lost between the two clubs. Milton claims Oakville owes them two players from a deal made last year, under former Milton owner Grant Turner. Oakville boss Murray Walker claims the deal is off because Turner is gone.

That aside, fans will have a chance to talk to Clark and Terrion as both players will sign autographs between the first and second periods.

Merchants have been relatively successful over the preseason, with three wins and a tie measured against only two losses.

"I think that's pretty good considering we've got a lot of new faces," manager Vern Gooding said.

In their last three outings, Milton beat Grimsby 7-6, tied Mississauga Torpos 4-4, and dropped an 8-2 decision to Mississauga in the rematch. But Merchants sat most of their regulars for the bulk of that game. Friday's game starts at 8 p.m.