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21—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, November 16, 1994

SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 1994

Mustangs stage astounding overtime rally



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Mustang running back Lorne Padelford sprints into the end zone for the winning overtime touchdown Friday against Nelson High in Milton. Celebrating in the background is Derek French (34). See story of the dramatic victory at right.

Near ranked ninth in world junior judo championships

Milton's Jason Near represented Canada at the World Junior Judo championships in Cairo, Egypt recently. Fifty-eight countries participated with 26 having fighters in Near's division, the 86kg class.

Near, who is 18, fought very well in his first world championships, working his way up the ladder, but was defeated by a Hungarian and eventually a Frenchman, quashing his chances for the medal rounds. However, he is now officially ranked ninth in the world.

Korea took the gold, Georgia (the former Soviet republic) silver and Russia placed third in the championships.

Near's showing is especially good for a number of reasons. One, according to the Canada's national coach,

Andrzej Sadej, is that other countries are providing unlimited resources towards facilities and development of the only martial art recognized in Olympic competition, while Canada is in a time of financial cutbacks to sports.



Jason Near

Another is that most of the competitors were in the top end of their age and weight categories. The competition is held every two years for those under 21 years of age, so Near will have another opportunity.

Sadej feels that Near has the potential to win gold, providing "he stays healthy and continues to develop physically, mentally and technically."

Near said he wishes to recognize, with gratitude and appreciation, the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 136 for their continued support.

Incredible, amazing, unbelievable, fantastic, remarkable, phenomenal, sensational, spectacular, fabulous, dramatic, thrilling, astonishing, inconceivable, awesome, astounding.

Choose any of the above to describe Milton District's 29-28 overtime victory over Nelson in the semifinals of the Halton high school football playoffs.

Milton quarterback J.J. Felsbourg, who looked more like Dan Marino last Friday afternoon, engineered a (choose one of the above) comeback in the last two minutes of the game with the Mustangs down by 14 points, and then another in overtime when trailing by six.

Milton opened the scoring on their first possession, driving methodically down the field and scoring the major on a 20-yard outside run by Sean Faulkner.

Nelson put together a drive of their own to tie by the half, which was sloppily played, with both teams suffering serious cases of fumbitis, turning the ball over a number of times. Howard McGill, Andrew Todd and Adam Brown all recovered Nelson fumbles, but the same number of Milton fumbles were recovered by Nelson players.

There was some good defence on both sides. For the Mustangs, linebackers McGill and Steve Lidstone were kept busy stopping Nelson from running up the middle, while Jon Rader and Eric Snyder moved up from the defensive backfield to make a number of tackles. Defensive tackles Martin Pyle and Colin Graham also had strong games.

Nelson opened the second half with another good drive, staying on the ground the whole time, until their quarterback surprised everyone by going to the air and finding receiver Trevor Gillis open for his second TD of the game.

After a stalled drive by the Mustangs, Nelson went to work again, with Gillis again hauling in the touchdown pass. A two-point conversion made the score 22-7 and it looked like the lights were dimming on the Mustang season, if not completely burnt out.

It got worse before it got better. After an interception, by Gillis of course, Nelson looked like they were set to put the icing on the cake. But a key takedown by Todd stopped their drive and they went for the field goal, which was unsuccessful after a poor snap.

With only a couple minutes remaining in the game, the Mustangs were faced with a fourth and seven from their own 40-yard line and had to go for it. Felsbourg found Kyle O'Neil open for a 30-yard gain. Then it was a 25-yard completion to Matt Jones, another completed pass to Lorne Padelford, and finally Mark Hume took it into the end zone for the score. The two-point conversion was good to Derek French.

Murray Townsend

ON THE LOOSE

The last minute on-side kick by Paul Brown worked to perfection as he booted a hard line drive that bounced off a Nelson player and was recovered by Adam Brown.

Then boom, boom, boom, down the field they went again. Complete to Padelford, first down. Complete to O'Neil, 20 yard gain. Complete to O'Neil, 10 yards. Complete to O'Neil, touchdown. The extra point was good by Paul Brown and the game was tied, sending it into overtime.

The overtime format is two five-minute halves. Milton won the toss and elected to receive, but a penalty on the return backed them up to their own 9-yard line and they were eventually forced to punt. A good Nelson return by, who else, Gillis, gave them the ball on Milton's 27-yard line. After key defensive plays by McGill (again) and Paul Brown (again), Nelson went for the field goal on third down, and were successful.

On Milton's first play after getting the ball back, a pass by Felsbourg was tipped and intercepted. Nelson ran a couple plays and then after gaining a first down, went for the field goal again. Why they would do that on first down is anybody's guess, but the kick was good and they went up 28-22.

Milton kicked off in the second half of OT and continued their second half

magic when Nelson fumbled the ball, and Jones and another Mustang recovered on the Nelson 26-yard-line. Then running back Mark Hume went to work, gaining some tough yardage on the ground and setting up the tying touchdown to Padelford. Then it was up to sure-footed kicker Paul Brown to give them the winning extra point.

Nelson had one more shot at it. Again, however, key defensive plays by McGill, who knocked down a pass, and Paul Brown, who got to the quarterback again, and another by Derek French to knock down another pass, stopped the Nelson attack leaving them with one second on the clock. They tried a 75-yard field goal, which would have been a world record. Naturally, it fell short, the game was over and the Milton District fans stormed the field. Quarterback Felsbourg understated the obvious: "We're not a team that gives up. We fight it out until the end."

It would have been hard to imagine many others not giving up when down by 22-7 with two minutes remaining, but the Mustangs have come back late in games all season long. That's no fluke, according to Felsbourg, but rather the result of hard work. "We deserve it."

Felsbourg is a rather modest individual, as shown in his team write-ups, which were printed in The Champion during the season. He rarely even mentioned his own name. He credited O'Neil and Jones with making key catches, but deserves a great deal of credit himself because it was his passing precision and leadership that led the team to victory when they needed it.

• see ROBINSON on page 23

In volleyball

Gold fuels Wildcats

The W.I. Dick Middle School girls volleyball team is coming on strong as the playoffs approach. Recently they brought home gold medals from the Oakville Trafalgar High School Invitational.

In their opening match they defeated Pineland (Burlington) 15-8, 15-7. Next they met a strong Q.E. Park (Oakville) squad and managed to pull off another two wins, 15-13, 15-4. In the first game of that match they came back from a 13-6 score.

In the third match in round-robin play the Wildcats narrowly defeated Rolling Meadows (Burlington) 15-13, 16-14.

With six wins and nobody close enough to bump the Wildcats out of first place in their pool, Lucy Kuhn, the Wildcat coach, put in the grade sevens, who split the final two round-robin games, 9-15, 16-14 with Morden (Oakville).

In semifinal play, the Wildcats faced the second place team from the

B pool, Maplehurst (Burlington). Maplehurst recently defeated top-ranked Centennial in the final of the local Sam Sherratt Tournament. Again the Wildcats advanced after three heart-stopping games of outstanding volleyball, defeating Maplehurst 13-15, 15-13, 16-14.

In the final, W.I. Dick faced McKenzie-Smith (Acton), a team that has given them trouble this year. But the Wildcats were unbeatable on this occasion, winning the final decisively in two straight, 15-14, 15-11.

MVP of the tournament was Carmen Smeitink, who was magic at the net. Sarah Tammemagi provided key blocks and spikes. Rounding out the starting lineup were Tammy Vella, Lindsey Russell, Erin Keely and Stefanie Rammo. Grade seven players include Chrissie Henderson, Natalie DiLivio, Elisa Hartley, Joanne Gunding, Ashley Leskun, Shawna Turner and Lindsay Nemeth.

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