THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

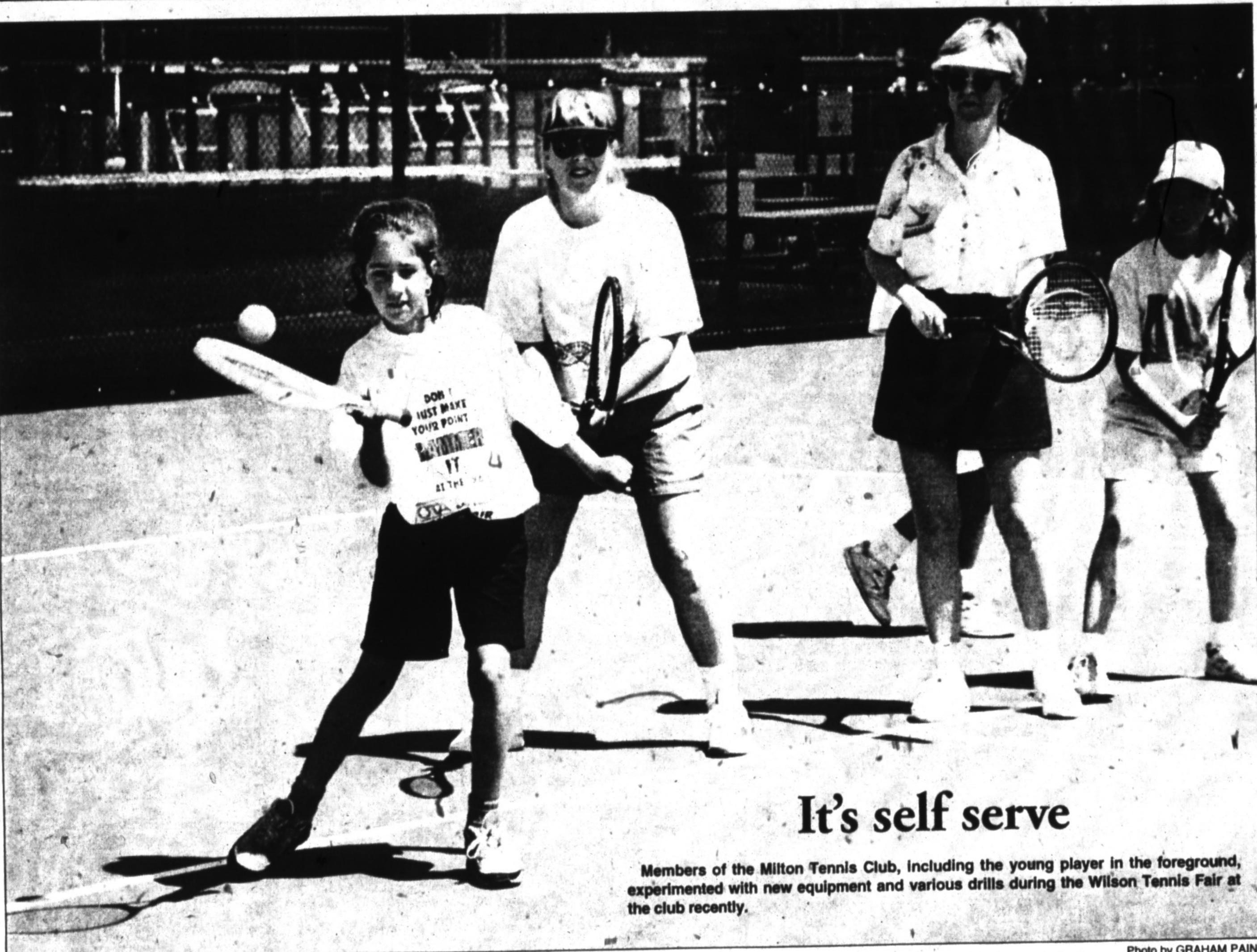


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Mavericks gain some momentum as playoffs loom

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

The Milton Mavericks celebrated the holiday weekend with back-to-back victories in OLA Junior B lacrosse action, on their home turf of Tonelli Arena.

The Mavs have managed to step things up a notch over the past two weeks and have done some climbing - from eighth to sixth place - in the West Division, and have created a little momentum heading into this weekend's Commissioner's Cup playoff

Milton wrapped up regular season play last night (Tuesday) in Brantford against the Posse, who at press time were fighting with

the Georgetown Bulldogs for the last Founder's Cup playoff berth.

Milton's wins came against two East Division teams, and helped them improve to 7-14 on the season.

They had to rally from an early 5-2 deficit after the first period to score an 11-7 thumph over the Nepean Knights Sunday afternoon. The visiting crew scored twice more in the middle frame but were stonewalled through the final stanza by veteran goalie Pat Dunn and a sound defensive effort.

Dunn replaced starter Rob Andrecola in the first period.

Andrew Hartholt\turned a hat-trick and added two assists and Jim Leworthy and Rob Barnes tallied twice and drew a helper

each. Singles came from Trevor Parker, Adam Cunningham, Scott Turner and Graham Darling - who also posted three assists. Dunn had four helpers.

Less than two days earlier Milton had to fight their way back again, this time to squeeze past the Huntsville Hawks 12-11. Dunn was between the pipes for the entire outing.

Hartholt and Leworthy both had hat-tricks in this one while Hartholt also had a pair of assists. Leworthy's third goal with just 41 seconds remaining also proved to be the game winner.

Barnes tallied twice again and Ian Parker scored once and collected four assists. Graham Darling and Craig Hedley had a goal and two assists each and Trevor Parker recorded a goal and and

Prior to these wins Milton fell 15-13 to the Bulldogs Thursday night in Georgetown. With home floor advantage it was Georgetown who came back in this one from an 8-7 deficit heading into the third.

Hartholt had a six-point night — three goals, three assists and Cunningham also turned a hat-trick and added two helpers. Mark Biesel tallied twice and assisted once.

Darling had a goal and two assists and Leworthy and Trevor. Parker tallied and set-up one a piece. Single goals came from John MacNeil and Jason Courtney. Dunn and Shane Knox split the netminding duties.

The Mavericks will likely face Six Nations in their best-of-five opening round playoff series, which should start Friday at 8 p.m. at Tonelli.

Jaycee girls wow hometown crowd

The Milton Jaycees girls t-ball Sweethearts were the 'comeback kids' at their own tournament recently - pulling off a closing day rally to walk away with first-place honors.

After back-to-back losses in early round-robin play, the Sweethearts regrouped to take two straight victories on Sunday. They began by trouncing Erin Mills 22-10 and finished up with a thrilling come-from-behind 21-20 triumph over the Clarkson Tomahawks to earn overall bragging rights.

This second victory was decided in the final inning with three huge runs for the local crew. Second to last batter Jan Wollaston lashed out a triple to score sister Katie and Janet Adams and drew her team even.

Jan didn't spend long on third as final batter Melena Vinski registered an RBI single to win the game.

While they provided the heroics, it was Laura Wellstead who earned game MVP honors with two singles and a timely triple that initiated Milton's final-inning rally. She also made several catches and put-outs from third-base.

Milton's play of the tournament came in the Erin Mills win with an amazing short to first to home double play with key throws by shortstop Jennifer Sheppard and first-baseman Richelle Hannah, and a big tag-out by catcher Justine Williams.

Breanne Haggart, Joanne Kenealy, Allison Radcliffe, Amanda Russell and Alison Sytsma comprise the rest of this year's roster.