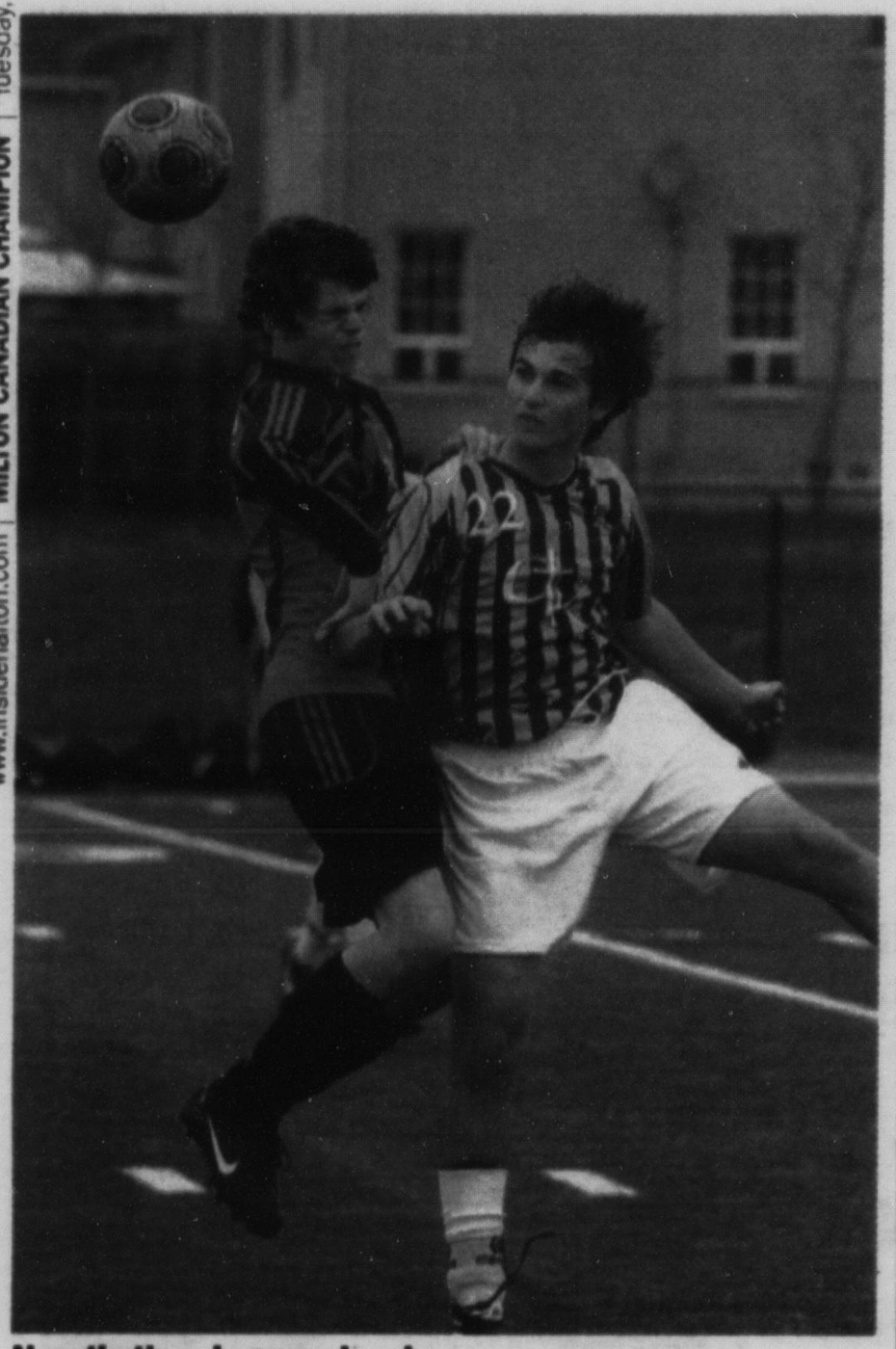
Sports



Now that's using your head

Bishop Reding's Jason Bonin (left) goes up for a header against Pat Tomczyszyn of Chris the King during senior boys soccer play in Georgetown last Tuesday. Reding lost 1-0 but capped the regular season with a huge 4-0 win over White Oaks Thursday to finish at 4-3. That was good enough for fourth place in Halton's Quad-A ranks. The Royals will now take on White Oaks this afternoon in first-round playoff action. ***Eamonn Maher / Special to the Champion***

U-15 Stags claim OBA D-5 gold

Motivated by being seeded last, second-entry squad stuns opponents with undefeated run

The Stags' Under-15 second-entry boys celebrate with the OBA Division 5 championship banner after reigning supreme in Windsor.

Ramon Oliveros saw the OBA Division 5 rankings as a 'slap in the face.'

His Stags struck back — in championship fashion.

Unfazed by being seeded dead last for the provincials in Windsor — something their head coach took exception to — Milton's Under-15 second-entry boys weathered some slow starts in stiff early-round competition en route to an undefeated run and OBA gold.

"We set out to prove everyone wrong," said Oliveros.

Mission accomplished.

Buoyed by a 68-66 second-round nail-biter over the top-ranked Grimsby Grizzlies, the Stags went on to deliver three decisive wins, including a 46-32 championship triumph over the Brampton Warriors.

In their lowest-scoring battle of the weekend, it was defence that proved to be the difference — allowing Milton to jump out to a 27-11 first-half lead and stay ahead from start to finish.

Surviving an 8-0 Brampton run in the fourth quarter, the Stags pulled out the win and exacted revenge for a loss to the Warriors earlier in the season.

Much like he did throughout the OBAs, Luka Bassem-Badie kept Brampton's top shooter in check to highlight a fierce defensive campaign by Milton.

Offensively, Jaskaranjeet Samra led with 15 points, while Arvin Filio and Daniel Rhynold had nine and eight respectively.

Even more explosive out of the gate in the semifinals, the Stags mounted a 24-7 hammerlock in the first quarter against the Guelph Pheonix and cruised to a 55-43 decision. Tyrique Moe and Tucker Johnson provided a formidable one-two punch with 13 and 12 points respectively, while Bassem-Badie chipped in nine.

With Rhynold and Johnson dominating on the boards and coming through with some stellar interior defence, the Stags went undefeated through round-robin play.

Along with their narrow win over the favoured Grizzlies, they kicked things off with a 49-40 win over Brampton's Bros Basketball and laid waste to Bayan of Toronto 57-29.

Moe led the scoring in the first two rounds with 19 and 17-point performances, while Samra combined topnotch defence in close quarters with 11 three-pointers for the weekend.

Aiden Kostashuk was another key defensive contributor, while Tyler Oliveros, Matthew Bryant and Faruq Anani were all sparkplugs during the title drive.

This marked the Stags' third OBA championship win this spring, following a second-straight Division 1 victory for the Under-11 boys and a Division 8 triumph for the Under-11 second-entry boys.

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