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# Milton District's improv team returning to national stage

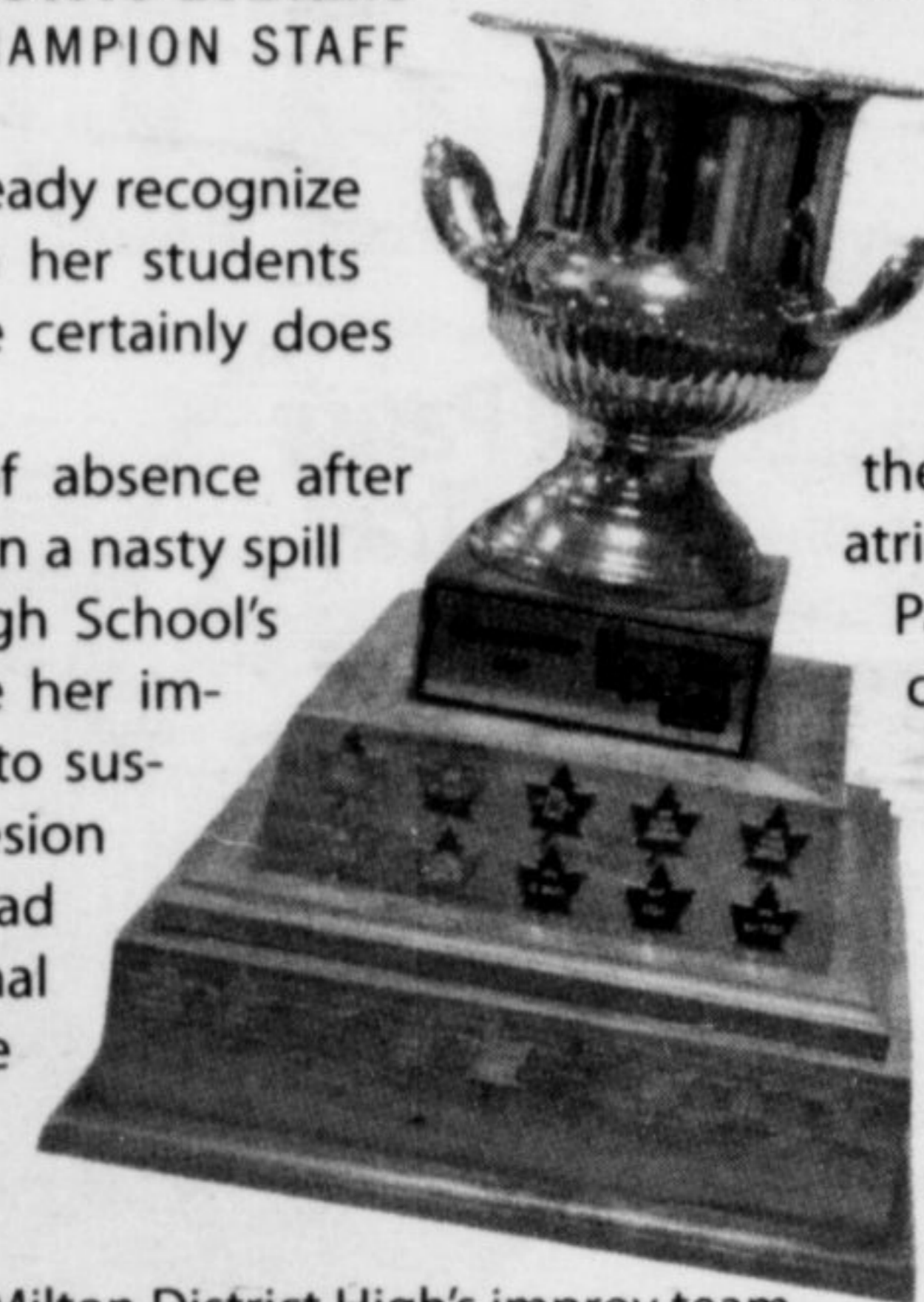
By Steve LeBlanc  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

If Laurie Graham didn't already recognize the deep-rooted devotion her students have to improvisation, she certainly does now.

Facing a lengthy leave of absence after breaking both her elbows in a nasty spill last fall, Milton District High School's drama teacher wasn't sure her improv team would be able to sustain the same level of cohesion and presentation that had taken them to the national championships four of the previous five years.

After all, the group had four new members — including two ninth graders — and suddenly had no coach.

"I thought this might have to be a rebuilding year," admitted Graham. "It was like 'OK, maybe we'll have to take a step back. I wasn't sure we'd even make it past zones.'"



Milton District High's improv team recently won the Toronto Regional trophy for the third time.

So much for modest expectations.

No sooner did Graham get injured — returning in January after missing pretty much the entire first semester — than one of her alumni stepped in to keep the school's quick-thinking theatrics running smoothly.

Part of last year's squad that cracked the top-five at the Canadian Improv Games' (CIG) national showcase in Ottawa, Sydney Crowe took over as head coach — rearranging her work schedule in order to do so.

That plus some occasional guidance from a number of other improv team graduates helped get this year's contingent 'tournament ready.'

Proof of that was offered late last month during a trip to the AI Green Theatre, where MD reigned supreme at the CIG Toronto Regionals.

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to all of our dedicated volunteers who share their time and talents to enrich all of our school communities!



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