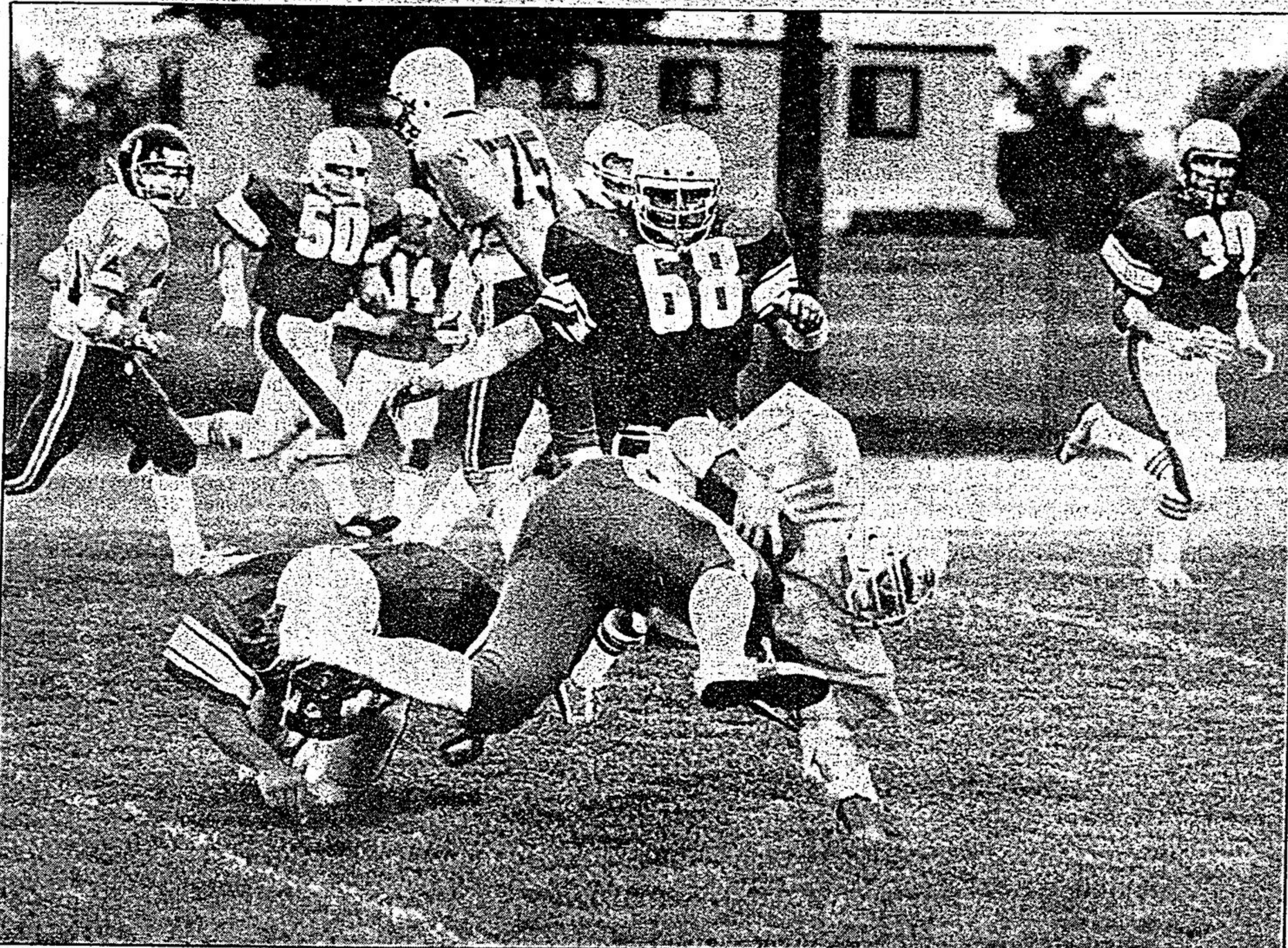


# Weekender Sports

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TAKING A TUMBLE...Durham's ball carrier takes a fumble after colling with an unidentified York player during Wednesday's York-Durham allstar Senior high school football game. Looking on is York's

John Cunti (68), Eric Grant (50) and Jordy Toole (30). York dropped a 26-7 decision.

— Anne-Jan Groen

## York keeps it respectable

By FRANCIS KING  
Sports Editor

'Twas a depressing sight indeed.

There they were, most of York Region's best when it came to Senior high school football, taking on the living monoliths from Durham region in a game sponsored by the Economist & Sun and other Metroland papers.

The monoliths prevailed.

The 26-7 final score wasn't too bad, actually. After all, York was outweighed (by an incredible margin) and badly out-finessed when it came to football fundamentals.

But the contest, held Wednesday night at Oshawa Civic Stadium, really showed where York Region football is at. Nowhere.

And nothing proved it more than the first half, when Durham marched all over the field at will, and probably could have trampled everything from here to Calgary if it so chose.

York's defence — the team's

strong point, according to coaches Ed Curry and Myron Dnes — was strained beyond limits.

And since the offensive machine creaked to a halt before gaining even one first down (or getting out of its own end), the defence spent almost all the half getting pummelled by an offensive line so huge it baffled Curry and Dnes.

"They had one kid at 280 pounds, two at 250 and the other two at 230," said Curry. "We were just out of our depth."

"And I was talking to some scouts who said it was the largest high school line they'd ever seen," agreed Dnes. "They ran us into the ground and we couldn't stop them."

By the time the first half whistle had mercifully sounded, Durham had stamped its way to a 26-0 edge on four touchdowns and two conversions.

The second half was quite different. Durham's coaches sent out

the backup squad, and that allowed York to gain almost exclusive possession of the ball.

What helped too, was the gutsy play of Markham District High School quarterback Mark Esdale and running backs Brian McMaster and Iain Forster — all of whom were hurting.

Esdale's throwing game was actually noticeable; he completed four passes to receiver Jim Monk, and he wasn't afraid to run against the defensive towers.

McMaster scored the lone York touchdown on a series of fourth-quarter running plays; after the squad had recovered a Durham fumble inside its 20-yard line.

As for Forster, he was virtually invisible during the first-half debacle, but seemed to regain his well-known football form after.

The game was Forster's swan song as a football player (thanks to a rickety knee), and he ran with that twisting style that put several big first downs on the board. He also booted the club's lone convert, and tossed several passes.

Eighteen-year-old Pat Tait was the team's defensive leader, coming off the field exhausted after the first-half blowout. But he performed well enough to earn the game's defensive star award.

"Based on what he was facing, I think Pat played an outstanding game," praised Dnes. "He probably made a dozen tackles."

Considering the score, Tait admitted the honor was a "big surprise. I could have fired the holes harder, but those are big guys (the Durham offensive line). They're almost the same competition as university."

Other MDHS players putting in



BRIAN McMASTER  
Scores lone York touchdown

good games were Peter Schaerl, Eric Grant, Scott Hitchcock, Ken Jorgenson and Mike Lind.

Curry wasn't surprised by the loss, noting Durham's experience with allstar games, its greater talent pool and monstrous size.

"Losing to a better team doesn't upset me. The first half was not enjoyable, but it was like going back to school and seeing how high school football should be played."

"This is a positive signal to our players," Curry continued. "They've now had a chance to see high-level competition, and I think a number of them will say 'we have to get better.'"

## Unionville Mites in tourney final

The Unionville Fruit Company softball Mites mercy-ruled their way to the championship of a Bracebridge tournament last weekend before losing.

In game one the locals pushed 18 fifth-inning runs across the plate en route to a 28-11 destruction of the host club. Kevin Scott led the run parade with a first-inning grand slam.

But it was the combination of nine hits, six walks, three batters hit by pitches and two errors that accounted for the fifth-inning deluge.

Scott finished up with five runs scored and six RBIs on four hits. Grant Barbesin scored three times and collected three RBIs on three hits.

Still, Unionville had problems of its own — giving up five errors and five walks to allow 10 runs in the fourth and fifth frames.

Unionville bats continued to boom in game two, with 12 first-inning runs and six in the second helping it trample Markham 29-7.

Paul Davies paced the barrage with three hits, five runs scored and four RBIs. Eric Goodwin and David Cox also had four RBIs apiece, while Scott earned six.

Markham should have been out for revenge when the two clubs met again in game three, but Unionville scored another easy 23-5 victory.

Cox contributed one run and two RBIs on three hits. Scott and Chris Markson each brought in three runs.

That win put Unionville into the finals against a tough Thornhill squad. There the mercy-rule victories ended, as the locals dropped an 18-10 decision.

Things started well enough, as Unionville pushed four first-inning runs across the plate and added another six after four innings. That opened up a 10-0 lead.

However, this seemed to wake up Thornhill. It started a successful comeback in the bottom of the fourth with eight runs on six hits and three errors.

Then Thornhill reliever Shane Weir came in and shut down the Unionville offence, allowing the opposition to knot the count on three fifth-inning errors.

John Sylvester led the Unionville offence with a three-run homer. Cox and Barbesin (who scored twice) had two hits apiece.

Thornhill will obviously continue to rain on Unionville's parade this season. The two teams met earlier in league play, with the opposition assembling a 7-1 triumph.

The big problem was errors. Thornhill scored four times in the bottom of the sixth, on two hits and three errors. In total, the locals committed eight errors and this led to four unearned runs.

Another potential problem for Unionville could be Malvern. The two squads met June 3, and Unionville finished on the losing end of a 9-6 score.

Kevin Scott led the attack with five hits and two RBIs.

East Gwillimbury certainly won't pose any difficulties. 12 Hits — including five triples — helped Unionville post an easy 13-5 win recently.

An earlier meeting between Unionville and Markham also went to Unionville 18-5. Sylvester, Goodwin and Blair Bobyk each scored three times — Gauthier on three hits (and four RBIs).

### Allstar tilt useful: scout

Despite the score and rainy conditions at Wednesday night's York-Durham allstar Senior high school football game, at least one scout thought it was a worthwhile exercise.

"It's a well-played game for this time of year," said York University head coach Frank Cosentino, midway through the fourth quarter. "Durham looks very solid, they're a little more cohesive. But York's certainly played well in this quarter."

Picking standout players for the over-matched York squad was no easy task, but Cosentino noted running back Brian McMaster "is certainly a good back. And the quarterback (another Markham District High School player, Mark Esdale) is directing a good game."

He also thinks such contests are useful because "we don't have much chance to see many high school games. We mostly find out about players through hearsay."