

## SPORTS

# Miller tackles gold medal at national championships

*Stouffville resident member of provincial rugby team*

BY JIM THOMAS  
Correspondent

Kyle Miller has added yet another medal to his treasure chest.

In addition to awards in softball and hockey, the 15-year-old Stouffville District Secondary School Grade 11 student recently acquired the most prestigious prize of all — a national rugby championship.

In the under 16 division, Ontario went undefeated in a round-robin tournament played in Burnaby, B.C. that was capped off with an exciting 15-12 win over the host province.

"It was a see-saw battle," recalled Miller. "We managed to hold them off."

The victory by Ontario was their first in the under-16 division.

Manning the wing position for Team Ontario, Miller played an integral role in the tournament as he scored four tries.

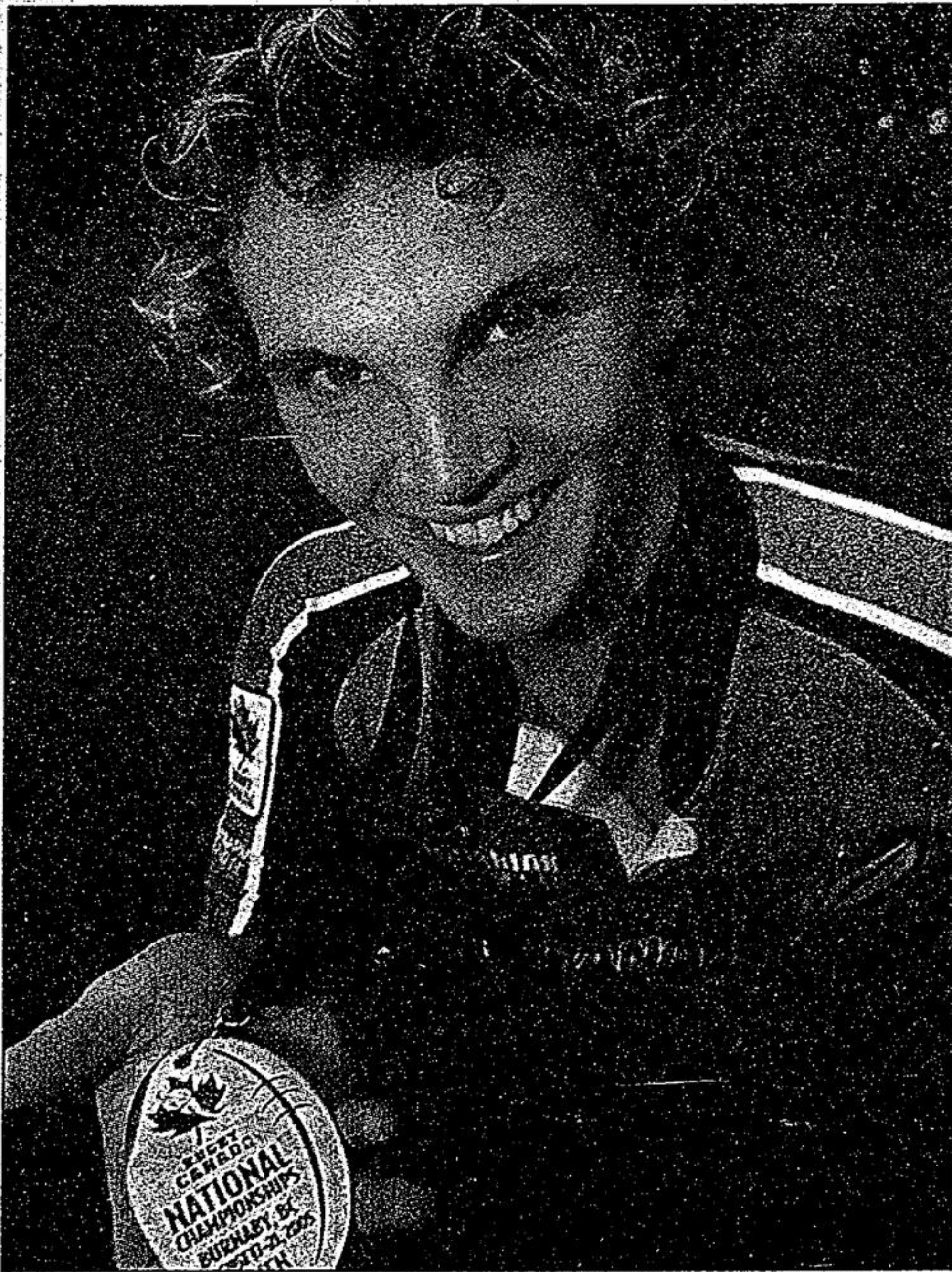
In elevating his skills to another level, Miller credits several individuals. Among them include Stouffville District Secondary School Spartans coaches Jamie Hewitt, Rob Edmonson and Glenn Tarver. He was also quick to praise high school teammate Bjorn McSorley.

#### HAD RESERVATIONS

"I wasn't sure if I wanted to play at all," he says. "They gave me the encouragement I needed."

An older brother, Jesse, also raised his confidence, he said.

In addition to playing with the provincial team this year,



STAFF PHOTO/STEVE SOMERVILLE

Kyle Miller, 15, proudly displays the gold medal he earned while taking to the pitch last week as a winger with the under-16 provincial team, who defeated British Columbia 15-12 in the final at the national rugby championships in Burnaby, B.C.

Miller was part of the Spartans' senior entry that advanced to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations AA rugby final only to settle for a silver medal with a heart-breaking loss to Trenton High School.

While Miller had an enjoyable time with the provincial team, his aspirations are to earn a spot with Team Canada in 2006.

When Miller isn't on the

rugby pitch, he can be found playing hockey during the winter months.

A member last year with the Markham Waxers AAA minor midgets, he's now concentrating on trying to earn a position with the Stouffville Spirit Provincial Junior A Hockey League club.

Regardless of what happens on the ice, the memory of winning a rugby national title will last forever.

# Spivak rests his case for the Spirit defence

*Jr. A team fine-tuning roster before Sept. 15 regular season opener*

The turnstile goes both ways in the Stouffville Spirit dressing room this week.

The Provincial Jr. A hockey club plays its final pre-season contests tonight and Friday, likely minus eight players attending major junior camps in Ontario Hockey League cities.

The Spirit will welcome back second-year defenceman Daniel Spivak who has been overseas with the Israeli national team.

The Thornhill resident was the youngest player on the national squad that won its relegation round at last spring's world championships.

Spivak, a 2004 Sarnia Sting draft pick, has elected not to attend OHL camp.

Players who will include Jake Van Allen and Brock Ouellet (Owen Sound Attack), Randy Johnston (Barrie Colts), Jeff Barbieri and Steve Filippelli (Mississauga IceDogs) and Patrick Lee (Erie Otters).

#### NEW ADDITIONS TO ROSTER

The Spirit has committed to two 1989-born players, the maximum permitted under new Hockey Canada rules, Shawn Frank and James McIntosh.

Both are at camp with the OHL teams that picked them this year.

Frank, who played centre for the Toronto Red Wings minor midgets last year, was a sixth-round selection of Barrie.

McIntosh, taken in the seventh round by Owen Sound, played defence for the Markham Islanders minor midgets last season.

The Spirit has also signed Whitchurch-Stouffville resident Myles Gomes, who played for the York Simcoe Express midgets last year.

The Spirit plays the Markham Waxers tonight at the Stouffville Arena and tomorrow at Markham Centennial.



**DANIEL SPIVAK:** Second-year Spirit defenceman played with Israeli national team at last spring's world championships.

Both contests are scheduled to begin at 7:30 p.m.

The Spirit opens the regular season Sept. 15 at home to the Newmarket Hurricanes.

**SPIRITED NOTES:** Spirit sophomore Scott Brown had to turn down an invite to the Brampton Battalion OHL camp after injuring his hand in a fight in last Thursday's 2-1 win over St. Mike's in Stouffville...St. Mike's blanked the Spirit 3-0 Sunday in Toronto...American Hockey League heavyweight Brandon Sugden is skating with the Spirit again this fall. He will attend the Columbus Blue Jackets NHL camp later this month...Spirit grad Jon D'Aversa, entering his third year in the OHL with Sudbury, will attend Anaheim's NHL camp...Konrad Bruetsch, who played on the Spirit's 2002-03 North Conference finalist team with D'Aversa, has re-signed with Martigny of Switzerland's B league...Vandorf resident Joe Cornacchia, briefly the Spirit's director of operations this year and former Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association president, is the Markham Waxers' general manager. His brother, former Oshawa Generals coach Rick Cornacchia, is the club's head coach.

For more on the Spirit, log on to: [www.stouffvillespirit.com](http://www.stouffvillespirit.com)

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