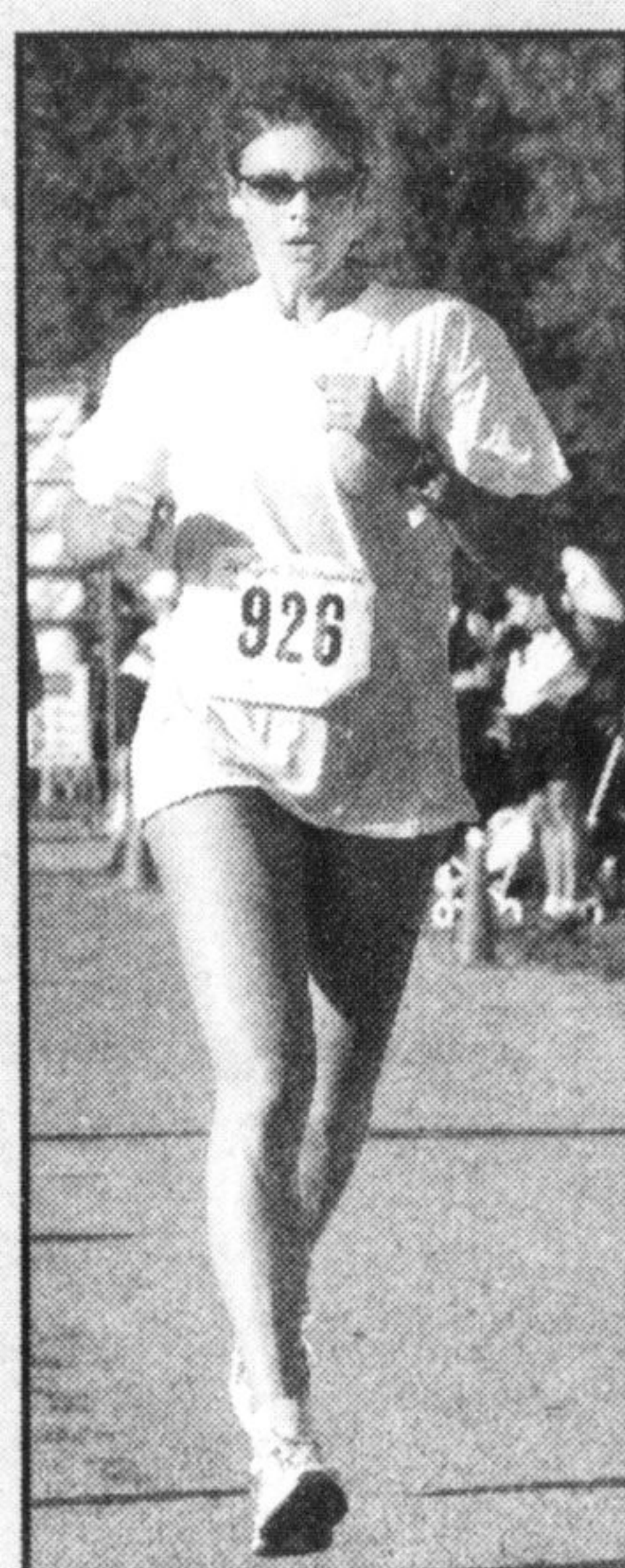
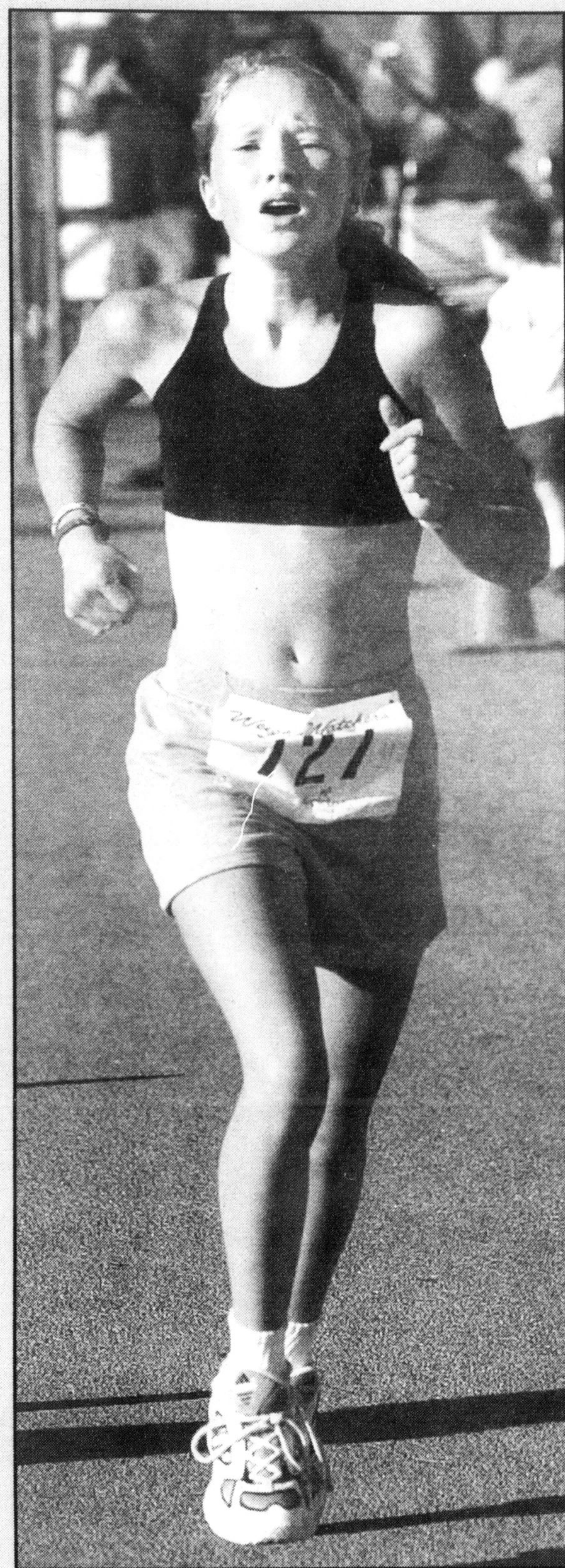




# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2002



## On the move

Elissa Whitman of Milton (at left) and Campbellville's Lisa Brown (above) compete in Sunday's triathlon at Kelso Conservation Area. The eighth annual event was the biggest yet, with more than 700 participants completing either the triathlon, duathlon or Try-A-Tri — in which Milton's Kristin McIlroy finished third.

Photos by  
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## Sr. Sox capture Ontario 'C' championship crown

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

The 2002 Red Sox rule Ontario 'C' ball!

Milton's two oldest teams, the juniors and seniors, each ventured into that level of provincial competition this summer — both emerging victorious.

George Moore's seniors brought the championship sweep to fruition with three straight do-or-die wins over the holiday weekend double-knockout tournament to highlight their breakthrough season and upgrade their 2001 Ontario 'D' title.

Coronation ceremonies began early Monday afternoon when the Bob's Auto Service-sponsored squad — who over the past two years have completely shed their pushover status — put the finishing touches on a title-clinching 2-0 whitewash of Tillsonburg.

Dan Fiorita and Adam Finkbeiner combined for the shutout victory, which was aided by near flawless fielding and first-inning RBI from Steve MacDonald and seasoned veteran Matt McCandless.

"It's kind of appropriate that Dan and Adam pitched the last game, because they're among the guys who were here when we were at our lowest ebb," said Moore. "It was pitching and defense that won it for us all weekend."

Tillsonburg threatened to turn the tables on Milton throughout the championship clash — but in the end left nine runners on base, including two in the sixth when Finkbeiner took the mound and delivered a key strikeout to preserve the lead.

Monday's dramatic triumph was the third elimination game the Red Sox took in less than 24 hours after dropping their initial showdown with Tillsonburg Sunday morning.

Phase one of their off-the-ropes battle played out much like the last — with Milton blanking host Creemore 4-0 to set up the two-game pay-back of, at that point, unbeaten Tillsonburg.

Fiorita's solid complete-game showing was backed up with three double plays, while like the championship win, all runs were scored in a single inning —

this time the sixth.

RBI were recorded by Todd Devlin, Dwayne Johnson, Pat Mastro and weekend offensive standout Nick Aalbers, who drove in a total of seven runs.

Then Milton moved on to trounce Tillsonburg 10-2 in the second of three meetings between these two teams.

A 12-3 hitting advantage factored heavily into the lopsided affair — as did midfielders Devlin and Manny Thapar, who matched their double-play total from earlier in the day.

Finkbeiner picked up the victory while multi-hit efforts were turned in by Aalbers, Johnson, Thapar, Jeff Sommer and catcher Ryan Davison — who didn't allow a stolen base all weekend.

Recalled Moore, "We just unleashed on them (Tillsonburg)."

The Red Sox' only provincial championship defeat to Tillsonburg Saturday night — which followed 5-4 and 5-1 decisions over Lisle and Amhurstburg respectively — was due in large part to

eight walks and a lack of follow through. Milton left a dozen runners aboard in that one, essentially blowing the lion's share of scoring opportunities.

Overall, Milton committed just two errors last weekend.

Making up the rest of this season's championship squad are Josh Campbell, Phil Grieg, Brent Kostal, Kurt Mitchell, Chris Taylor, Nathan Tami, Ian Zettle, Ben Watson, Kevin Wilson, junior affiliates Mike Grabauskas, Nate Perrott and Taylor Lawton, and coaching staff members John Sommer, Henry Romanowski, Glenn Turner and Doug Timbers.

The Red Sox will close out their season this weekend with a four-team double-knockout league finals at Ninth Line and Brian Best ball parks. Also vying for the COBA crown are Erindale, Etobicoke and Burlington.

Milton begins today at 6:30 p.m. against Erindale at Ninth Line and will play its remaining games tomorrow at Brian Best. The Red Sox advanced to the final four with a first-round win over St. Catharines.



Milton's Senior Red Sox celebrate their Ontario 'C' championship win.

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