



Juveniles kick off year with blowout

For Milton's AA juveniles, this season is basically about two things — more opposition and more ammunition.

Needless to say, championship hopes hinge heavily on which of those commodities proves more prevalent in the months ahead.

Coach Jim Kosmalski knows full well that his Winterhawks will be hard-pressed to defend their Niagara District title, especially with the league having recently added five teams — including anticipated powerhouses Grimsby and Thorold.

But with 13 players back from last year's championship run and a handful of capable replacements plugging the holes, this year's squad seems significantly stronger than its most recent predecessor. "I'd say we're probably a better team," Milton's bench boss suggested. "We're definitely stronger on defence and have a little more grit."

The latter asset has been bolstered with the additions of Barry Kosmalski, Brett Turner and Chris Coates — an assistant captain and overall sparkplug with the 2001/02 OMHA champion midgets. Fellow newcomers Mike Dube and Evan Jeans are back on the local hockey scene and bring both toughness and accountability to the Winterhawks' blueline.

Factor in two returning goalies along with a host of impact forwards and Milton should be able to measure up to any of its old or new rivals.

The Winterhawks humbled many of its mid-to-lower level opponents last season, and continued that trend during season-opening play at Memorial Arena Saturday night.

Fortifying their efforts following two lacklustre periods, the hosts struck seven times in the final frame to dispose of Fort Erie 12-4. Noted Milton's skipper, "Once we started playing as a team, we opened up the floodgates."

Jon Sweetland backstopped the local juveniles to victory and leading offensively with a hat-trick was reliable sniper Kyle Burrell. Dube and Wes McDougall each tallied twice, while also standing out with a goal and three assists was Julian Ricci.

The rush stops here

Milton Winterhawks Sarah Digiallonardo uses a little muscle to take an Acton Tanner puck handler into the boards during novice additional entry play at Milton Sports Centre Saturday afternoon. Milton lost 8-1.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

67's coaching staff pleased with Reid

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

Ten games and not a healthy scratch yet. That may not be a statistic worth getting excited about, but it's one that provides at least some indication of Elgin Reid's immediate value to the Ottawa 67's.

The 16-year-old hasn't exactly set the major-junior world on fire since joining its ranks this fall. But after nearly a full month with the 67's, Campbellville's OHL rookie still hasn't had to watch a game from the press box.

"I think it says something about my worth here," said Reid, of not being scratched yet. "I'm learning a lot and I think I'm adjusting pretty well so far."

Defensive coach Bert O'Brien feels likewise.

"The kid's spunky and has a real desire to make himself better," Ottawa's assistant bench boss remarked. "I've known very few players that hate to make a mistake more than Elgin. Brian (Kilrea) and I think his progress has been excellent."

But it hasn't all been rosey for the young blueliner, who along with defensive partner Robbie Lawrence sat much of the third period at Mississauga's Hershey Centre Sunday afternoon.

Their brief benching was punishment for Lawrence's ill-timed pinch that caused a two-on-one against Reid and — subse-

quently — the eventual game-winning goal for the IceDogs.

Noted Ottawa's first-round draft pick, "Killer lets you know when you've done something wrong, but that's part of what makes him a great coach."

Sunday's miscue aside, the young blueliner has made significant strides over the past month — adapting rather well within a franchise that's more defensively structured and conservative than most.

"Killer definitely doesn't like defencemen rushing the puck. He's more the traditional bank it off the glass to get it out type," explained Reid. "But I think I'm adjusting pretty well to the Ottawa system and am pleased with the way I'm playing."

With next week's return of injured blueline cornerstone Will Colbert,

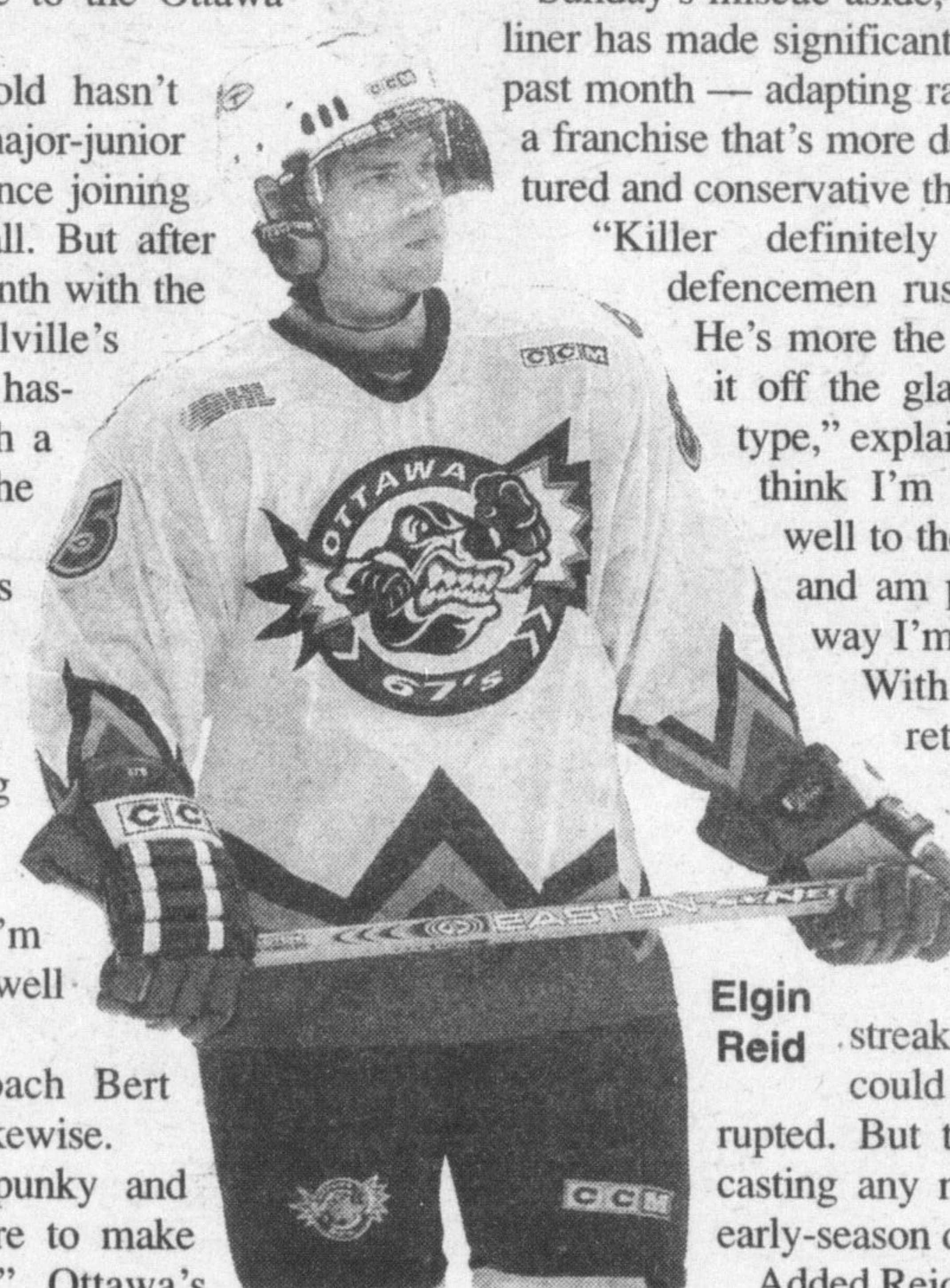
Reid realizes that his streak as a 67's regular could soon be interrupted. But that notion's not casting any negativity on his early-season demeanour.

Added Reid, "I'm just doing the best I can with the time I get, which has been quite a lot for a rookie. So far things have been great."

Now 4-5-1, the 67's resume play this Sunday at home against the Erie Otters.

Meanwhile, former Milton Merchant Brad Efthimiou posted a first-period assist in Sunday's 4-3 IceDogs victory to help lift the team to 5-2 — the best start in franchise history. The lanky sniper leads team scoring with three goals and six assists.

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Elgin Reid

Boyd and Morgan tops in local tennis

Blowouts and barn-burners were delivered in equal supply recently as the Milton Tennis Club held its season-ending championships at its newly-erected facilities.

Title competition was capped off with the men's singles play, which had to be postponed more than a week due to adverse weather.

Under ideal conditions October 7, Chris Boyd held off a formidable challenge from

Jeff Boychuk to prevail 6-3, 7-5. Boychuk knotted things up 5-5 in the deciding set before finally being vanquished in a grueling encounter.

On a much more decisive note, the women's singles crown was secured by Tracy Morgan, who downed Gillian Shepherd 10-3 in a modified pro set showdown.

Morgan followed that up with a ladies

doubles triumph — joining forces with Belinda Kuipers to upstage Sarah Stanley and Jodie Rideout 6-2, 7-5 in what was overall the biggest division in more than a decade.

In men's doubles action, Boychuk and Intercountry Majors captain Mike Hurley hooked up to take top honours, capping their title run with 2-6, 6-4, 6-0 comeback win over Bob Edmonds and Eneas Silva.

'AA' novices dumped by Battalion

Ouch, that's gotta hurt.

Milton's AA novices held their own through the early going of Tuesday night's road trip to Brampton — restricting the hosts to just one first-period goal and knotting things up right before intermission.

But that's where the competitiveness would end, as the Battalion humbled the Winterhawks the rest of the way in an 8-1 rout.

J.R. Sanderson's lone tally was set up by J.J. Stimson and Jack Goncz.

Evan Rudd provided the only bright spot on defence, holding Brampton scoreless during his allotted ice time.

A fatigued visiting crew — which had been on the ice seven times in the last nine days — was simply overwhelmed over the final two periods.

At home against Burlington Saturday, the Winterhawks were much more respectable but no more triumphant — dropping a 4-2 decision to the Eagles at Milton Sports Centre.

Gareth Browne potted both goals for the local lads, with help from Drew McMillen and Robert Manning.

The straight losses dropped the novices to 3-4 on the year. They traveled to Caledon last night and host Flamborough tomorrow at 1 p.m. at Milton Sports Centre.

MILTON MENS INDOOR SOCCER LEAGUE

Is looking for teams or individuals (16 years and older) to play in the upcoming soccer season.

All games are
Sunday mornings at E.C.Drury High School in Milton.
Season runs November through April.
Cost per player is \$110.

Space is limited and will be filled on a first come basis paid in full.

For more info contact any of the following:

Graham Soutar...905-339-1611
Paul Reid.....905-301-7397
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Derby Brown