

Melanie Jans headed for the top of the world squash circuit

By STEVEN LeBLANC
The Herald

Georgetown teen Melanie Jans began her involvement in squash six years ago when her parents signed her up at the Georgetown Racquet Club.

From this inauspicious beginning, she has become one of Canada's best squash players and is proving herself worthy of competing against the best players in the world.

Melanie Jans, 18, a Grade 13 student at Georgetown District High School, trains at Pine Valley Racquet Club in Toronto. Her coach is Barbara Diggins.

She is currently ranked number one in Canada for her age group and hopes to make the national team in the spring. If she is successful, she will compete at the World Squash Championships in Vancouver this October.

"My chances of make the team are very solid," said Melanie. "At first, I told the national coach, Ian Patton, that my goals were to make the team. He told me that I should strive to place in the top two on the team."

Melanie explained that she became involved in squash after she hurt her knees and had to give up gymnastics. She had trained at the Halton Hills Gymnastics Club.



MELANIE JANS

She took the national squash scene by storm at a very young age, placing forth at the Nationals for her age group in Sarnia when she was 12 and capturing the gold the following year in Vancouver.

Melanie's skills on the squash court have taken her around the world as well. Before Christmas she competed at the Dutch Open in Amsterdam—the trip was sponsored by N.S.Z. Group Inc. of Toronto. There she managed to qualify and met Michelle Martin, who is ranked number two in world, and took a game from her.

She has also competed in such countries as Scotland, England, Australia and Norway.

"Before Christmas I competed in England and was eliminated early in competition," said Melanie. "I was able to do some shopping and take in some sight-seeing."

In addition to competing on the world circuit, Melanie is a member of the GDHS Rebels squash team and also teaches ballet once a week to five classes at the Halton Hills Gymnastics Club. She enjoys playing tennis and hopes to play soccer this summer.

Melanie explained her plans after finishing high school center on her making the national team. She hopes to eventually have a world ranking.

Her back-up plan, should she need one, is to attend university and earn a degree in sports psychology. If she takes this route, she wishes to attend the University of Toronto so she can continue to train at her current club.

Right now, Melanie is focusing all her attention on making the national team and making a name for herself in the international squash scene. She is determined to make it to the top and is an inspiration to athletes from relatively small communities with big time dreams.



Draw winner

Trudy and Mike Jones (left) recently claimed their two American Airline tickets and cheque for \$1,000 as the grand prize winners of the 15th Annual Bill Smith Golf Tournament, held last June, from tournament sponsor, Bill Smith (right). The tournament raised \$25,000 for the Canadian Cancer Society. (Herald Photo)

'AAA' Midgets sweep first playoff series

The Hurricanes swept their opening round OMHA playoff series against Barrie defeating Barrie twice on the weekend. Both games were played in Barrie.

Saturday night, the Hurricanes dominated their hosts, skating to a 5-1 win. The score was flattering for Barrie as Halton had three goals disallowed.

Jamie Janjevich led the scoring parade with a pair of goals. Ken Kosziwka, Jason Cole and Mike McPhail added single tallies. Halton led 5-0 before Barrie found the scoreboard ruining David White's shutout bid with just under seven minutes left in the game.

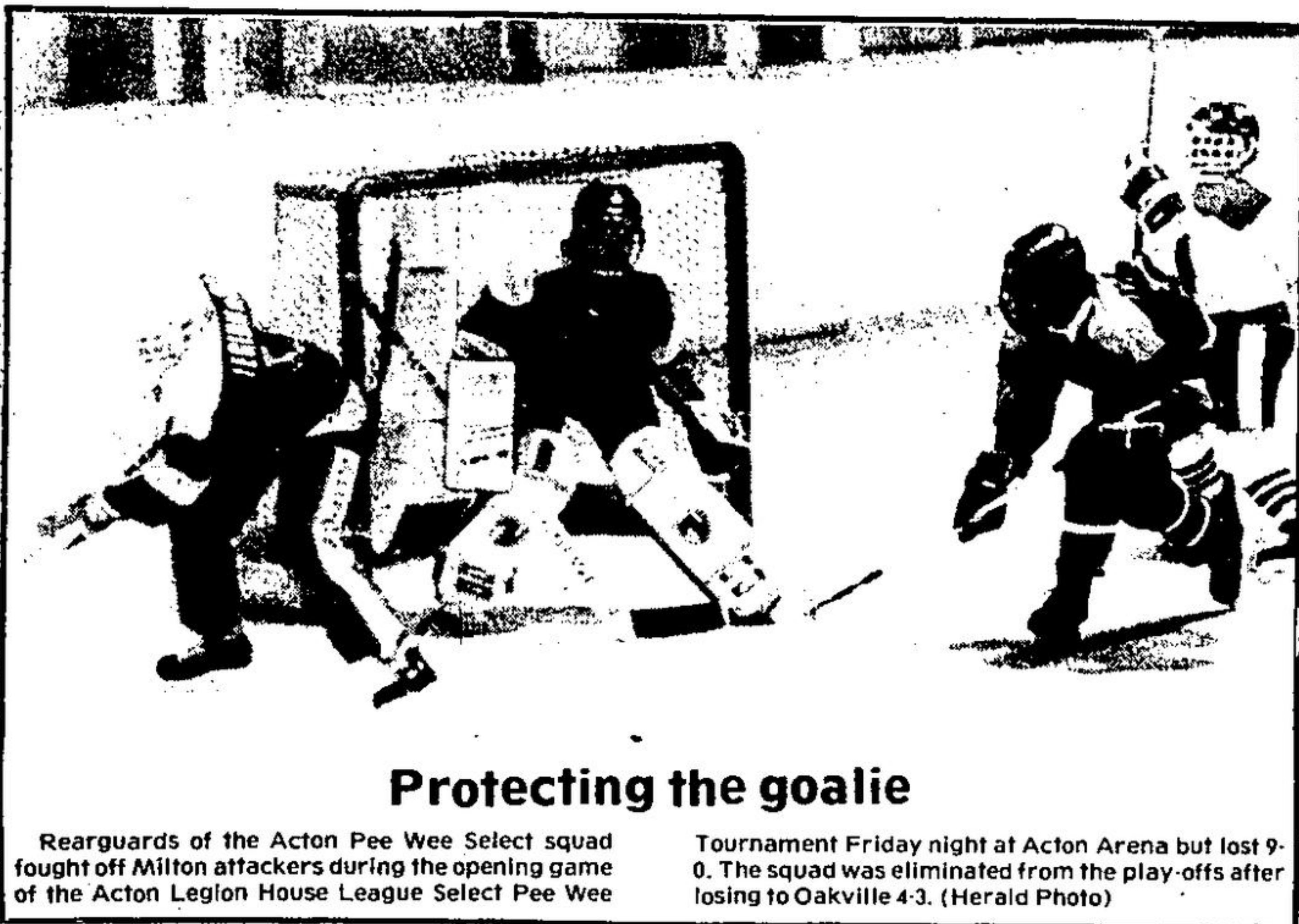
Leading the series 2-0, Halton returned Sunday and completed the sweep with a solid 5-3 win. Again the Hurricanes took early control of the game and were never threatened throughout the contest.



Janjevich picked up where he left off Saturday, scoring three and adding an assist.

Jake Mashinter and Mitch Robinson rounded out the scoring. Barrie scored twice late in the game, the last with virtually no time remaining on the clock and goaltender White starting his victory celebration to make the score respectable.

Halton awaits their next opponent on their quest for the OMHA title.



Protecting the goalie

Rearguards of the Acton Pee Wee Select squad fought off Milton attackers during the opening game of the Acton Legion House League Select Pee Wee

Tournament Friday night at Acton Arena but lost 9-0. The squad was eliminated from the play-offs after losing to Oakville 4-3. (Herald Photo)

Black Machines break tradition with impressive '91/'92 season

In the beginning of the 1991-92 season, the John Henderson Major Atom 'AA' Black Machines had reason to believe they may again struggle through a tough season.

With a history of tough competition and not a whole lot of luck, the Black attack decided it was time to serve notice to the rest of the league that an automatic two points when play-Georgetown was no longer viable.

The biggest reason for a 25 point increase in the standing and a sixth place finish in the 11 team Bowen division was the play of the team's fine young goaltenders, Chris Hall and Lewis Lepard. With Hall seeing full time duty in the Georgetown cage, he proved he is one of the top backstops in the league.

Offense wins games, defense wins championships, and that is exactly what happened in early December when the Black Machines rolled to the Erin Tournament Championship.

Veteran defensemen Geoff Bahr, Dave Markham, Joey Goodhew and Jeff Telfor kept

things clean in front of Hall and Lepard with great size and strength while rookie rearguard Ian Cartwright used his great playmaking ability and smarts to outwit opposing forecheckers and move the puck quickly.

In this season of many ups and downs, these fine young athletes combined to create a winning atmosphere amongst themselves

and proved to everyone they were capable of winning any contest they entered.

After a disappointing loss to Burlington in the O.M.H.A. playoffs this past weekend the winning taste they experienced in the regular season will become invaluable in the teams pursuit to become the 1992 Tri-County Champions!

Killer C's hold top spot in ladies' basketball

For a second straight week, the Killer C's have owned top spot in the McCauley Ladies Basketball League. Last Wednesday they sat up on fourth place Slammers 60-31 with the help of stars Anita Stankus and Charlotte Prevost, who each netted 20 points.

Last place Time-Outs have yet to claim their second win of the season. Last week they dropped a 52-22 decision to Time-Ins. Time-Ins star forward Heather Lawrence

scored 18 points while teammate Jane Black chipped in 12.

Second place A-team, trailing first place C's by four points, narrowly escaped losing ground in the standings when they edged out Green Hoosiers 56-50. High scorers for A-team were Judy Spear (15), Boo Tufford (14), and Adele Helis (12). Tracey Yorke netted 18 points for Green Hoosiers. Scoring 12 points each were her teammates Corinne Buisman and Penny Wright.

Wingnuts take over top curling spot

With the number one and two Thursday recreational curling teams losing in last week's action, Smith Automotive Wingnuts, skipped by Brad Smith took over the top spot on Jan. 9.

Looking to maintain this position, they fought off a late charge from LaGuys for an 8-6 win and remained a point up on the second place Senators.

Ken Irwin's Work That Body foursome stole four in the seventh to nail down a victory over the Hogliners and Ian Arnold's Ruby Begonias continued their streak doubling Jaws 8-4.

The Rockers and Sliders had the tightest game of the evening blanking three ends and tied 2-2 at the end of six. Unfortunately the clock ran out on this one and Barry Dunlops two in the seventh end gave the Rockers a 4-2 win.

Later on Graham Farnell and the Senators took six ends to best the Kendale Hackers and stay close to the Wingnuts.

Ken McCormack's Three Men and a Skip rink had similar success over the Rinkhounds and extended their win streak to three.

Steve Cartwright's Frigidaire Frosted Flakes built on a big se-

cond end to defeat the Challengers 8-4, and Mki Polovszky's Rolling Stones got back in the winning groove with yet another 8-4 score over the 8 Enders.

A week later the stormy weather and cold conditions created several high scoring games at North Halton.

Brad Smith's Wingnuts held off the Challengers to win 7-5 and remain on top.

Barry Dunlop's Rockers broke it open in the fifth to coast home against the Senators and Ian Arnold's Ruby Begonias doubled the Potovszky Markham rink 8-4.

The Hounds and guest skip Dave Ashbee picked up a five ender in the fifth to defeat the Hogliners 11-8. Two hours later Ashbee was on the other end when Scott Russel's 8 Enders scored the second five ender of the night in their 11-8 win over Jaws.

Don Campbell's Kendale Hackers could do nothing wrong and it was only a pressure shot from Sign Shoppe Sliders skip Al Moore in the last end that killed the shutout attempt.