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Tanners, Caledon tied in OMHA final series

The Acton Major Novice Tanners have one disadvantage in their quest for an Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship—they're playing two teams.

There's the Caledon squad they easily defeated 4-0 Saturday in the opening game of their best-of-five OMHA final. Then there's the Caledon team that jumped on them quickly and went on to a 5-4 victory to even the series at a game apiece.

"It was certainly a different team than we saw Saturday," said Acton coach Bruce Chiasson. "They caught us off-guard with the tempo of their game."

Sunday night Caledon twice opened up a two-goal lead but each time the Tanners fought back to even

the score.

Caledon scored the only goal of the opening period and went ahead 2-0 on a shorthanded marker early in the second. Acton tied it with two quick power play goals by Nicholas Eagan and Jesse Spurrell. Caledon regained its two-goal edge but again Acton fought back. Eagan scored twice to knot the score at four.

Finally, Caledon scored to move ahead two minutes into the third and this time the lead held up.

"We had some good chances, we just couldn't tie it up again," Chiasson said.

Spurrell, Eagan, Roger Kirkness, John White, Brandan Lockyer and James Begg each had an assist for the Tanners.

Saturday's game was a much different story. The



Jake Lewis (left) of the Acton Tanners tries to slip past a Caledon opponent during Acton's 4-0 win Saturday in OMHA novice playoff action. Photo by Herb Garbutt

Tanners dominated from beginning to end. Kirkness and Eagan scored 31 seconds apart midway through the first.

Kirkness got his second of the game to make it 3-0 early in the third. Caledon looked to have a chance to get back in the game when they had a

two-man advantage for 1:49 but even then it was Acton that got the best scoring chance when Eagan stole the puck at centre and went in on a breakaway, only to be turned away.

Eagan would get his revenge in the third, deking the last defender at the blue-

line and going in to score his second of the game just over two minutes into the third.

Game three of the series is Wednesday (today) at 7 p.m. at Mayfield Arena. Game four is Saturday in Acton at 4:30 p.m.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Bantam Hurricanes post one victory at OMHA tournament

Even though they lost to their arch-rivals, the Halton Major Bantam Hurricanes still did them a favour.

In their opening game at the Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) bantam tournament in Oakville Friday, the Hurricanes were blanked 4-0 by the Oakville Rangers, who went on to win the OMHA championship. Halton then fell 7-4 to the Quinte Red Devils in the second game.

The Hurricanes bounced back on Saturday, edging the York-Simcoe Express 3-2 when Matt Velten set up Fraser Millband with less than two minutes to play.

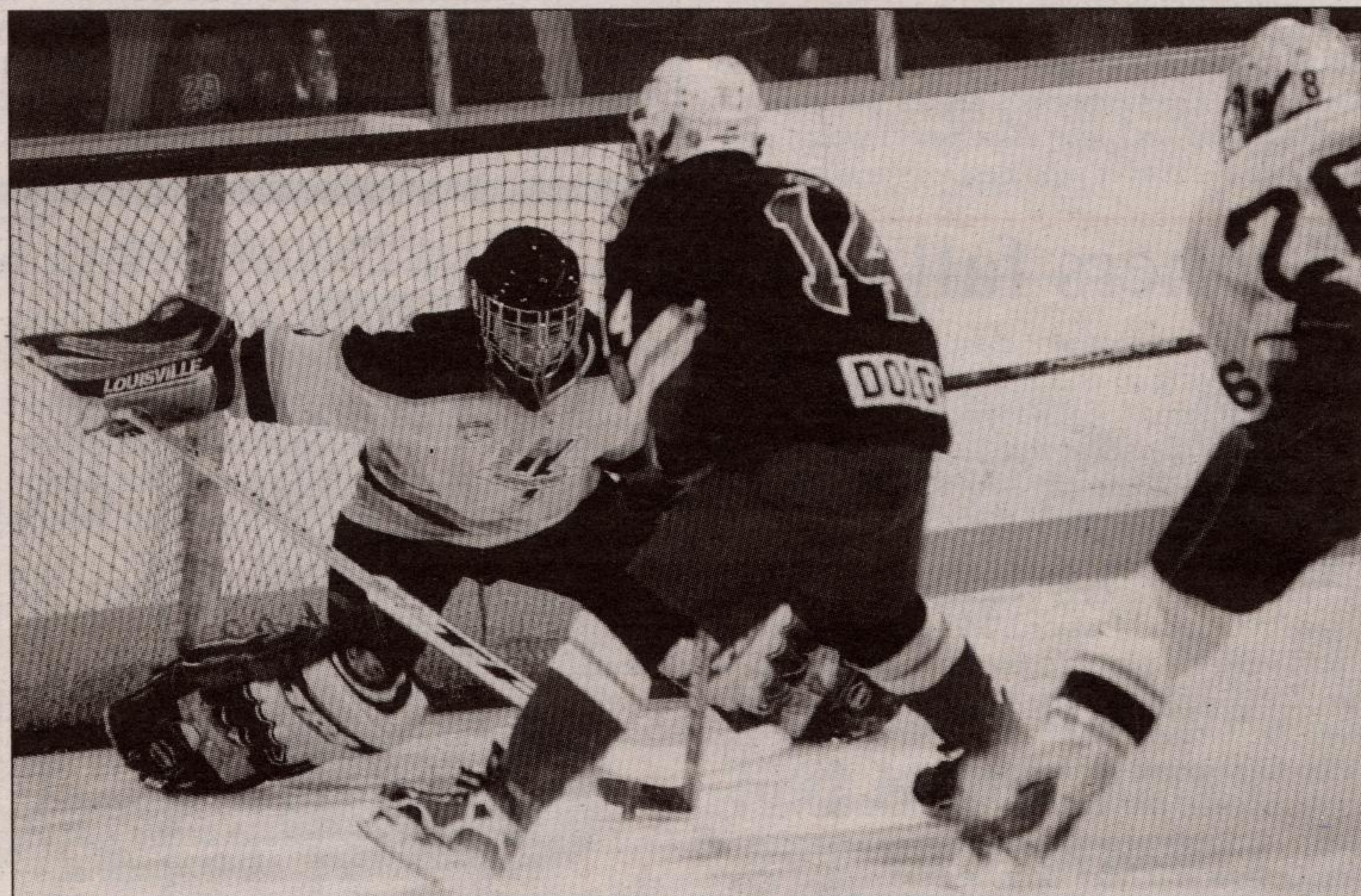
That win helped secure Oakville a spot in the gold medal game after the Rangers were upset by York-Simcoe on Friday.

The Hurricanes' final game saw the Niagara Falls Canucks down Halton 6-2.

"The kids played their hearts out," said coach Rob MacLeod.

"They trained very hard to get there. I'm proud of the guys. To finish in the top five of the OMHA was a great accomplishment. They're a great team and they deserved a better fate."

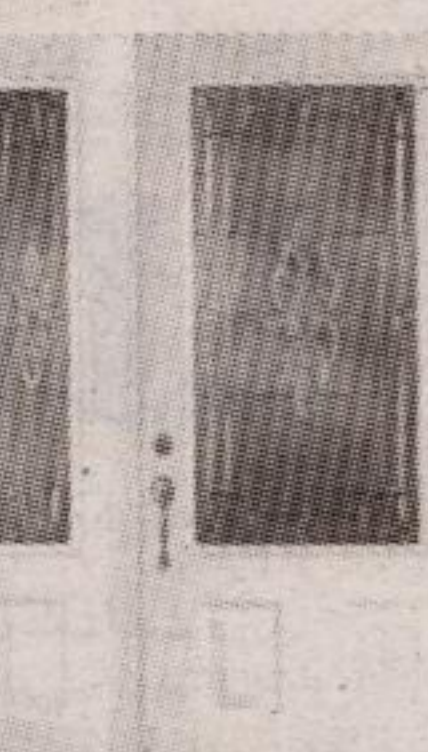
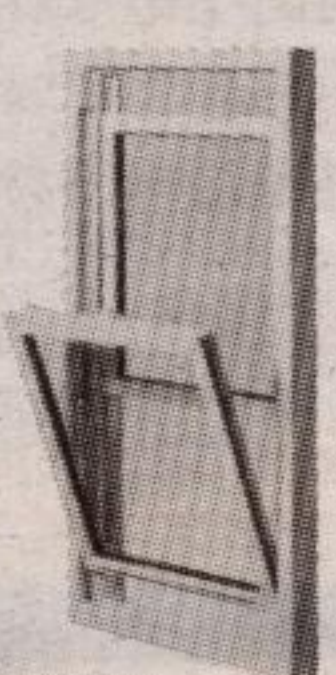
Jay Sprague finished tied for the team lead with four points, including a pair of goals. Velten led the team with three assists and Adam Holton also had a helper. Other local members of the Hurricane team are Jonathon Southgate, Daniel Sliastas, Brad Torres and Adam Armonas.



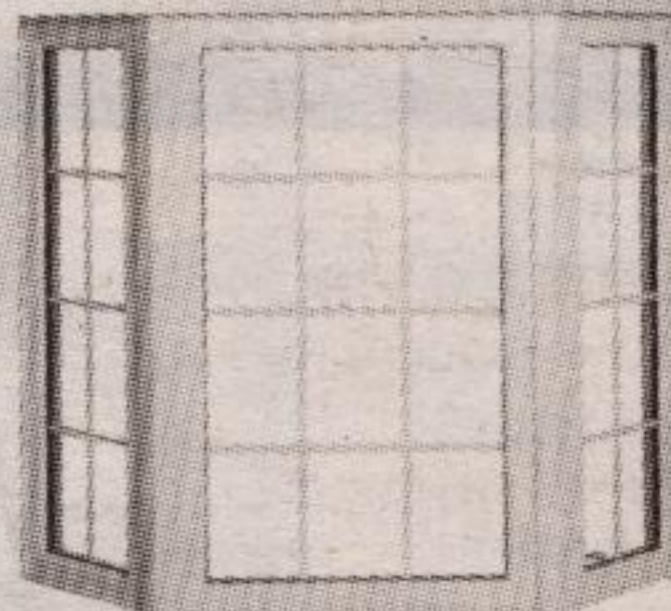
Halton Major Bantam Hurricanes goalie Jason Fiorino attempts to poke check the puck away from an Oakville Rangers opponent while teammate Fraser Millband (26) applies a hook during the Hurricanes' 4-0 loss in OMHA tournament action Friday in Oakville. Photo by Julie Fairrie

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