Dave Prentice Fires Overtime Tally Merchants Sink Hornets 2-1 Sunday

Third line centre Dave Prentice stocky, black haired Oakville im game and a three games to one bulged the twine twice on Sunday port rifled a hard wrist shot into victory in the best of five, league to sink the Orangeville Hornets the Hornet cage at 5.35 of the first semi-final series. and boost the Milton Merchant overtime period in Guelph to give Juniors to the league finals. The the Merchants a 2-1 victory in the



By BRIAN McCRISTALL

CONGRATULATIONS ARE IN STORE for the Milton Merchant the playoffs, earned the hero's Juniors, Kinsmen Pee Wees and Rotary Midgets. The high class laurels on Sunday as he netted Milton representatives took important steps this week towards both Milton markers. His first bringing the County Town hockey laurels. Enio Sclisizzi's Merchant goal of the game came at 8.08 of Juniors were especially impressive in this Friday and Sunday evening the first period as he finished off wins over Orangeville, giving them the right to advance to the league a neat passing play with linemate finals against Simcoe.

In their first season in Junior "C" competition, the Merchants have impressed almost everyone with their abundance of energy and spunky courage. Lou Fontinato's Orangeville Hornets dealt the Merchants several tough blows but the squad always finished on its feet and eventually their class showed through. Enio reported this week, "I'm glad the Orangeville series is over, our guys took an awful lot but they realized it was more important to win the series than it was to win the fights. Of course we didn't make out too badly in the fights either". Coaching played a big part in Milton's victory and Enio reports, "Murray Grenke and Dooney Evans really helped our boys. In the three games we won the Hornets only managed a goal a game. Murray did a terrific job with the defense and Dooney really helped Frank. In the first couple of games Dooney noticed that Frank was tossing the puck behind our goal and the Hornets just skated in and picked it up. He told me and I let Frank know and he started to shove the puck into the corners instead and it really worked great. Those little things sure mean a lot".

MILTON KINSMEN PEE WEES, coached by Bob Collen and Milton checked tenaciously and St. Marys battled to a 2-2 overtime of three series will be both played managed by Ken Young, earned a 2-2 tie in a heart breaking O.M.H.A. kept the Hornets in their own end tie in the first game of the O.M. in St. Mary's. The next game is semi-final opener in Milton on Saturday. The rugged little 19-12 for most of the final four minutes H.A. "B" semi-finals in Milton on scheduled for Saturday, April 3, year olds came within 34 seconds of notching the opening game of and 35 seconds of the game, but Saturday. the series. The Pee Wees, Tri-County "B" Champions, played a the Hornets did break loose once. St. Marys took Milton by sur- for Saturday, April 10 at the strong game against the tough St. Marys contingent and Kinsmen With less than five seconds re- prise as Ken McCutcheon scored same time. goaltender Phillip Bailey robbed the opposition left and right in maining in the period, Frank Mar- after 20 seconds of the opening the 10 minute overtime session.

AFTER BOWING TO PARRY SOUND in the O.M.H.A. Midget finals last winter, the Milton Rotary Midgets intend to capture a title for sure this season and if Sunday's performance is an indication, they could very conceivably wind up with provincial laurels. The fast skating Rotarians, coached by Arn McDuffe and managed by Lachie McKersie, gained an exciting 4-2 win in their O.M.H.A. semi-final opener against St. Marys. The Midgets, top performers throughout the regular season, are a well balanced squad and have the added advantage of having an outstanding goaltender in Robert Lee. An Ontario title this year would be a terrific final act to the outstanding managing career for Lachie McKersie. Manager of the squad for six seasons, Mr. McKersie has played a large part in the Midget's success which includes four consecutive Tri-County titles. Coach Arn McDuffe might also retire at the end of the season and he reports, "I'm not too sure yet but if I'm elected Tri-County president I won't have very much time for coaching."

THROUGHOUT THE SEASON Milton has been well represented in inter-town hockey activities and an important championship from any one of these teams would add a spicy layer to a successful shinny season. Good luck!

SHORTS IN SPORT: Ross McKersie of Milton is seeing plenty of action in the Metro Junior "B" finals with the Brampton Seven-Ups . . . Ross received nearly all of his hockey training in Milton and starred with the Milton Juveniles before graduating to the Junior "B" ranks last winter . . . Pete McDuffe, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arn McDuffe, has just wound up his first season in Junior "B" company ... The 17-year-old goaltender played over 40 regular season, exhibition and playoff games with the Junior "B" St. Catharines squad . . Pete, a star with the O.M.H.A. finalists the Rotary Midgets last winter, allowed an average of four goals a game in the top flight competition . . . He played two games with the parent Junior "A" Tee Pees and hopes to get a crack at their goaltending spot next season . . . Pete thinks the main difference between Midget and Junior "B" hockey is that Junior "B's" have harder and more accurate shots . . . "They think faster and try to set up their plays more," the classy netminder reported . . . A grade 10 student in a St. Catharines high school, he went through the season without notching a shut-out. Pete likes playing Junior "B" but he says, there was more control over the players in Midget hockey than there is in Junior "B" . . .

OAKVILLE OAKS OF BASEBALL fame stand to lose two of their top performers from their 1964 squad . . . All Star catcher Bill Kane and classy shortstop Dick Bondy have both left the Lakeshore community...Bondy, a top notch sticker, moved to Hamilton and might fill a Cardinal uniform if that team decides to enter the Halton County Intermediate league again . . . Kane shifted to Ottawa and that's good news to the pitchers of the league . . . Shifting back to hockey, we pick the Montreal Canadiens to walk away with Lord Stanley's Basin in the annual spring frolics . . . Toe Blake's flying Frenchmen are sure to jump from their slump in time to top Punchy Imlach's pensioners . . . Detroit Red Wings should certainly oust the Chicago Black Hawks but they'll have a much tougher time with Canadiens . . . We say the Quebec squad will win in seven after taking Toronto in the same number.

ST. JOHN AMBULANCE BRIGADE has been doing veoman service at Junior hockey games this winter . . . The hard working bunch of volunteers have been on hand at every Junior game and have been very helpful when players have been injured . . . Speaking of injuries, we can't help but recall the tragic tale of Jack McMaster, every time someone tosses some article on the ice . . . McMaster, a graduate of St. Michael's Majors and an up and coming hockey star, was injured seriously one night in Kitchener when he slipped on a gum wrapper dropped by a thoughtless fan . . . The talented ace was in hospital for several months and although he has now recovered, his budding career was cut short because someone didn't think . . . It's really great to see a large crowd on hand at Milton arena but we don't think it's a good idea when spectators throw fire-crackers, rubbers and other regalia on the ice surface . . . It isn't a kidding matter . . . we were standing next to some youngsters on Friday when announcer Murray Hood stressed, "some player could be injured," but all the youngsters did was laugh . . . If it was their brother that was injured, there wouldn't be many smiles . . . A bunny rabbit might be good for a laugh but gum wrappers, rubbers and firecrackers can only cause injuries . . .

EXCUSES GO HAND AND HAND with playoff losses but the best one we've heard in a while came from a St. Marys Midget fan on Sunday afternoon . . . The Champion's budding young sports reporter, Roy Downs, attended the Midget game at the arena and according to one white-haired St. Marys fan, he was the reason that Milton won . . . Roy's a top notch news reporter but a hockey player he ain't . . . So how did he help the Rotarians? . . . With his camera of course! . . . An elderly St. Marys fan insisted that Roy was flashing his candid camera in the eyes of her heroes . . . "She was nearly mad enough to hit me with her knitting bag", MR DOWNS noted.

550 From Milton

More than 900 fans, an estimated 550 from Milton, watched the tightest and most exciting Junior game of the season as both teams turned on the speed from the opening whistle and never stopped until the game ended. The Sunday game was a repeat of the first three games in the series, with goaltenders Jim Peters and Frank Marshiori robbing their opposition blind. Fans and players alike marvelled at the work of the cage guardians and Merchant coach Enio Sclisizzi stated, "the goaltending was the best I've ever seen in Junior hockey."

Prentice, a consistent scorer in Alan Reid and defenceman Joe Hore. That marker kept Milton in front until 9.19 of the third period when Lowry beat Marshiori from close in to tie the count. Both teams missed several excellent opportunities in the final minutes of the third stanza.

Blistering Drive The first five minutes of play in the overtime session was action packed as the Merchants buzzed about the Hornet cage, but could not finish off a play. Finally Prentice picked up a stray puck and then caught the upper right hand corner of the net with a blistering drive.

shiori came up with an impossible period. This narrow one goal

called, 11 to Milton.

"The third line deserves the credit for Sunday's win," Merchant coach Enio Sclisizzi reported. "They had zip and they took up the slack. The first two lines seemed tired but Prentice's line played well throughout the game. Dave came through with the big tie. plays, he's a brainy hockey play-



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O.H.A. CENTRAL JUNIOR "C" finalists in their first year, the Milton Merchant Juniors hammed it up in the dressing room in Guelph Sunday afternoon following their 2-1 overtime victory over the Orangeville Hornets. The victory was Milton's third in the best of five series and gave them the right to advance to the league finals against the Simcoe Blades. First game of the best of seven final series will be played in Milton tonight (Wednesday) at 8.30. Second game will be in Simcoe on Friday and Merchant officials are trying to arrange buses for transportation to Simcoe. Details will be announced at the game tonight.

Battle to 2-2 Deadlock just outside the Hornet blueline, skated across, beat a defenceman skated across, beat a defenceman and then cought the upper right. In Provincial Semi-Finals Opener

at 2.00 p.m. and the third game

MILTON MERCHANTS

Play-off Scoring

GP G A Pts

keep Milton in the game.

By Ken Young Milton Kinsmen Pee Wees and The next two games of the best

save to preserve the Milton vic- margin stood up until the eight minute mark of the second per-Peters in the Orangeville cage iod. In the space of 50 seconds made 35 stops in the game and Milton fired two goals, both off Marshiori blocked 27 for Milton, the stick of Gary Young. Nigel The game was one of the cleanest | Ferguson and Billy Wilson assistof the series with 20 penalties ed on the first and Ray Tonelli set up the second.

> With just 34 seconds left in regulation time Ken McCutcheon got Paul Legree loose again to tie the score and Jim Keane send the game into overtime.

In the overtime period neither team was able to break the deadlock and the game ended in a 2-2

Top Performer The top performer of the game Steve Gervais. was Philip Bailey in the Milton net. Philip went the distance and

Brian Bond Bruce McDuffe Roger Wildfong Leon Stickle Dave Prentice Dick Marshall Alain Bouchard Alan Reid Ren Bertoli Bill Anderson 10 0 1 John Forbes 10 0 0 0 Frank Marshiori 1 0 0 0

Goaltender's Record GP GA Ave Svs. made some sensational stops to Frank Marshiori 10 37 3.70 336

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Juniors Battle Blades Tonight Start Best of Seven Final Set

Seventh place finishers in regular season play, the Milton Merchant Juniors will be battling to defend their title as league giant killers when they tangle with the Simcoe Blades tonight (Wednesday). The Cinderella squad in the O.H.A. Centrol Junior "C" league, the Merchants will be out to win the opening game of the best of seven league championship

Decisive series wins over Georgetown and Orangeville gave Milton the right to advance to the championship set against the year long league leaders, the high flying Sinicoe Blades. Club officials are expecting more than 1,000 supporters for tonight's 8.30 game. Second game will be in Simcoe at 8.30 on Friday night and the third game will be in Simcoe on Monday. Milton will host the fourth game of the series at 8.30 on Wednesday evening, April 7, and the fifth game will be in Simcoe on Saturday, April 10.

League Champs

Sixth game if necessary will be in Milton on Sunday afternoon, April 11, and the seventh game, if required will be in Simcoe. The winner of the series will be crowned league champions and will advance to the Ontario semi-finals against Point Edward.

Merchant club officials are hopeful that buses will be available for the trips to Simcoe. It is estimated that 40 fans will be needed for each bus and full details will be announced at tonight's hockey game. At least one bus will be going to Simcoe for the Friday night game. It will leave Milton promptly at 6.15.

Merchants and Blades battl-

ed twice during the regular season with the Simcoe squad picking up a pair of victories. The Blades gained a 6-5 win over Enio Sclisizzi's squad in Simcoe and in Milton, they

notched a 7-4 decision. "Simcoe will be tough," Milton coach Enio Sclisizzi told The Champion, "but they won't be nearly as dirty as Orangeville. If a team is really good, they don't have to resort to that dirty stuff." Commenting on his team's chances, the Merchant mentor stated, "We've come into our own in the playoffs — we're a lot better now than we ever were in the regular season. Of course, they could have improved also. We haven't played them since January. I even forget what they look like."

Fan Support

"The Milton fans have really started to support our boys and it sure helps. You can just see their chins lift up when the fans start to holler. As long as we play smart hockey, we'll give them a good

For their past four home games, the locals have attracted an average of 1,000 fans a

—Be sure to watch the Milton Rotary Midgets when they tangle with St. Marys, at 2.15 Sunday

ARENA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31 8.30 p.m. - Junior Hockey

Playoffs - Simcoe vs

THURSDAY, APRIL 1

4.30-7.30 p.m. — Figure Skating

8-10-Pro-Am Hockey Hiltz vs Cain — 8 p.m. McTrach vs Fox -9 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 2

4.30 p.m. -- Minor Hockey

SATURDAY, APRIL 3

MINOR HOCKEY PLAYOFFS 2-4 - Public Skating - 25c 8-10 — Public Skating — 50c

SUNDAY, APRIL 4 2.15 p.m. - Midget Playoffs

MONDAY, APRIL 5

6-10 p.m. - Minor Hockey

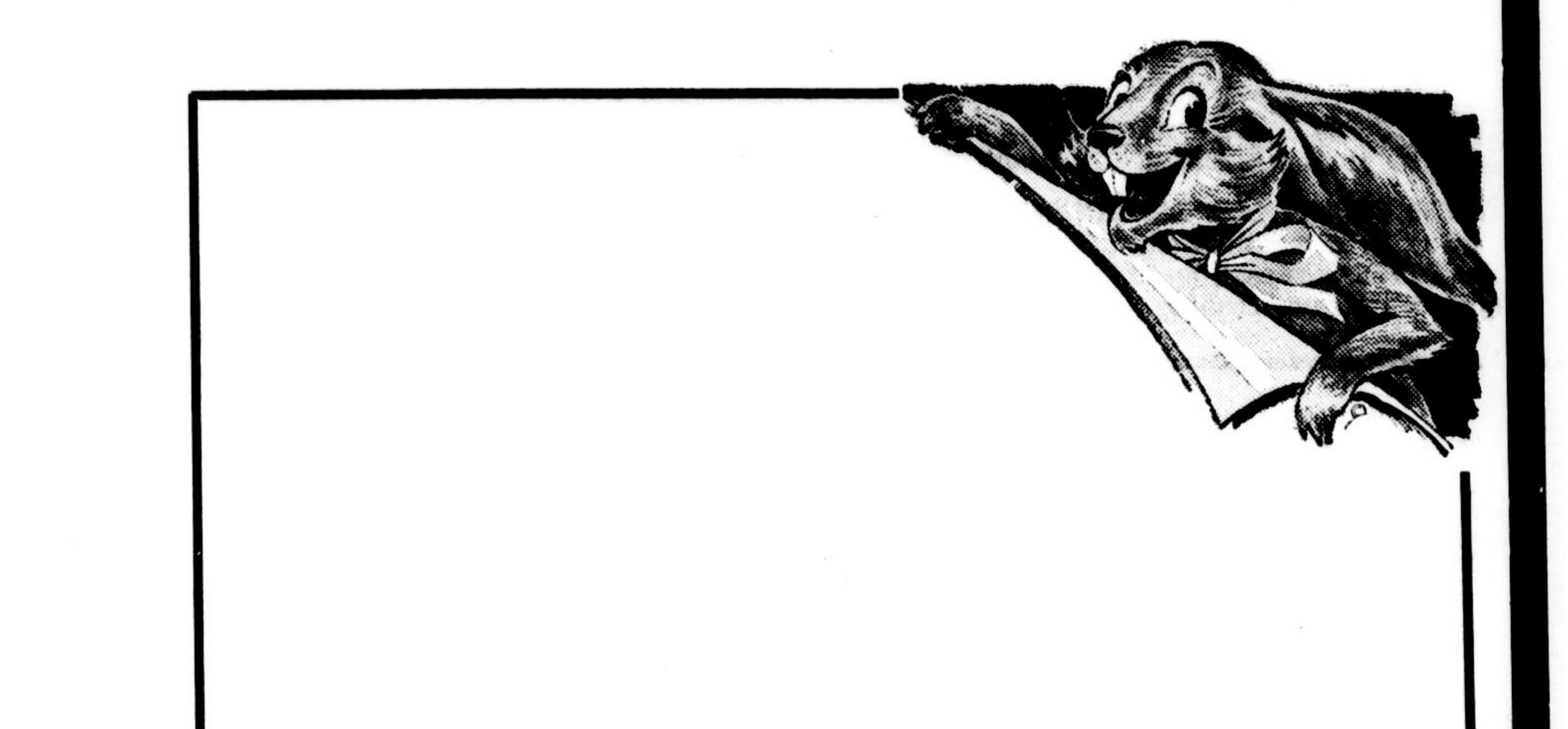
TUESDAY, APRIL 6

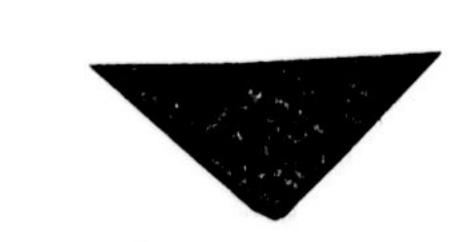
8-10 p.m.—Pro-Am Hockey Turner vs Brush — 8 p.m. McConnell vs McCutcheon -9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 7

2-4 p.m.—Adult & Pre-School Skating, 25 cents and 10

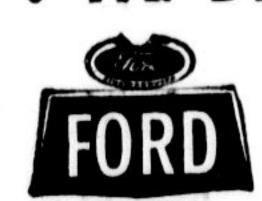
8.30 p.m. — Junior Playoffs Milton vs Simcoe





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