

Win Series 3-1

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

Third line centre Dave Prentice blurted the twice over Sunday to sink the Orangeville Hornets and boost the Milton Merchant Juniors to the league finals. The

stocky, black haired Oakville player ruffled a hard wrist shot into the Hornet cage at 5:35 of the first overtime period in Guelph to give the Merchants a 2-1 victory in the

game and a three games to one victory in the best of five, league semi-final series.

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 goalenders 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 Scisizzi stated, "The goaltending was the best I've ever seen in Junior hockey."

Prentice, a consistent scorer in the playoffs, earned the hero's laurels on Sunday as he netted both Milton markers. His first goal of the game came at 8:08 of the first period as he finished off a neat passing play with linemate 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 packed as the Merchants buzzed about the Hornet cage, but could not finish off a play. Finally, Prentice picked up a stray puck just outside the Hornet blueline, skated across, beat a defenceman and then caught the upper right hand corner of the net with a blistering drive.

Milton checked tenaciously and kept the Hornets in their own end for most of the final four minutes and 35 seconds of the game, but the Hornets did break loose once. With less than five seconds remaining in the period, Frank Marshiori came up with an impossible save to preserve the Milton victory.

Peters in the Orangeville cage made 35 stops in the game and Marshiori blocked 27 for Milton. The game was one of the cleanest of the series with 20 penalties called, 11 to Milton.

The third line deserves the credit for Sunday's win," Merchant coach Enio Scisizzi 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 plays, he's a brainy hockey player."



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—Staff Photo

O.H.A. CENTRAL JUNIOR "C" finalists in their first year, the Milton Merchant Juniors hammered 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.

Kinsmen Battle to 2-2 Deadlock In Provincial Semi-Finals Opener

By Ken Young

Milton Kinsmen Pee Wees and St. Marys battled to a 2-2 overtime tie in the first game of the O.M.H.A. "B" semi-finals in Milton on Saturday.

St. Marys took the lead by surprise as Ken McCutcheon scored after 20 seconds of the opening period. This narrow one goal margin stood up until the eight minute mark of the second period. In the space of 50 seconds Milton fired two goals, both off the stick of Gary Young. Nigel Ferguson and Billy Wilson assisted on the first and Ray Tonelli set up the second.

With just 34 seconds left in regulation time Ken McCutcheon got loose again to tie the score and 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 tie.

Top Performer

The top performer of the game was Philip Bailey in the Milton net. Philip went the distance and made some sensational stops to

keep Milton in the game. The next two games of the best of three series will be both played in St. Marys. The next game is scheduled for Saturday, April 3, at 2:00 p.m. and the third game for Saturday, April 10, at the same time.

MILTON MERCHANTS Play-off Scoring

Player	GP	G	A	Pts.
Brian Bond	10	6	7	13
Joe Hore	10	5	8	13
Bruce McDuffe	10	5	6	11
Roger Wildfong	10	4	7	11
Leon Stickle	10	4	7	11
Dave Prentice	10	5	5	10
Dick Marshall	10	3	7	10
Paul Legree	9	5	3	8
Jim Keane	10	4	3	7
Alan Bouchard	10	2	4	4
Alan Reid	10	2	4	4
Ben Bertoli	10	1	2	2
Bill Anderson	10	0	2	2
John Forbes	10	0	1	1
Frank Marshiori	10	0	0	0
Steve Gervais	1	0	0	0

Goaltender's Record
 GP GA Ave Svs
 Frank Marshiori 10 37 3.70 336

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. Central Junior "C" league, the Merchants will be out to win the opening game of the best of seven league championship series.

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 Simcoe 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 battle

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 Scisizzi's squad in Simcoe and in Milton, they notched a 7-4 decision.

"Simcoe will be tough," Milton coach Enio Scisizzi 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 chips lift up when the fans start to holler. As long as we play smart hockey, we'll give them a good tussle."

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

—Be sure to watch the Milton Rotary Midgets when they tangle with St. Marys, at 2:15 Sunday

MILTON ARENA

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 31
 8:30 p.m. — Junior Hockey Playoffs — Simcoe vs Milton

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. — Junior 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 Finals

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 cents
 8:30 p.m. — Junior Playoffs Milton vs Simcoe

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