

Merchants face elimination here Friday Georgetown holds one game advantage

Failure to hang on to a 3-0 lead put Milton Merchants in a crucial position in the Junior C playoffs with the Georgetown Raiders Sunday in Georgetown.

The Merchants took advantage of a heavily penalized Georgetown club and put two goals by them in the first period. In the second they extended their lead to 3-0 and commanded a 3-2 lead at the end of the period.

Milton tired in the third period and took less than 10 shots on the Raider goal but allowed three unanswered goals to get by Pie Lee in the Milton net.

Milton will be up against a do or die situation when the series comes here Friday night. If they lose, they're out. If they win it's Georgetown's home game. But no one really knows where they will play it. Ordinarily it would be played in Georgetown Arena Sunday afternoon. But the rink is booked for the Bantam Tournament.

A Raider executive said the obvious solution would be to win here Friday and get it over with. Roger Wildfong and Jim Chalkley gave Milton their 2-0 lead in the first period. Wildfong took a pass from Jan Riddell in the Raider zone, cruised in front of the net, had one shot blocked and

then back-handed a second into the net.

Graham Hearn set Chalkley up for his goal when he flipped the biscuit in front. Kevin Hall assisted.

Milton outshot the Raiders 13-4 in the first period with a man in the sin bin.

Craig Brush put Milton three goals ahead when he scored from the faceoff circle. Georgetown was two men short at the time of the third goal.

From there on in Milton had little to cheer about. Goals by Terry Leswick and Paul Robinson left the Merchants clinging to a 3-2 lead. They were outshot eight to four in the second period. Brent McMullen scored Georgetown's tying goal after the Raiders had applied pressure in the opening minutes of the final period.

Terry Leswick and Paul Robinson scored to sink Milton's hopes of ousting the Raiders here Friday. Robinson's goal came while Kevin Hall was serving the only Milton penalty in the third period.

The game was a rough one that saw Jim Cole and Phil Lavell square off in the first bout, and John Radvak and Ron Lane took a couple of shots each later, Cole and Lavell each got five minutes

while Radvak and Lane got double minors for high sticking and roughing.

- FIRST PERIOD
1. Milton - Wildfong (Riddell, Hood) . . .6.15
 2. Milton - Chalkley (Hern, Hall)17.37
- Penalties - McMenemy (G) 2.10; Larmond (G) (major) 10.18; J. Cole (M) 11.37; Laval (G) (minor, major) 11.37; Hall (M) Johnson (G) 12.40; Gervais (M) 14.00; Lane (G) 17.19; McMenemy (G) 17.30.

- SECOND PERIOD
3. Milton - Brush (unassisted)6.23
 4. Georgetown - Leswick (Hay)12.34
 5. Georgetown - Dwyer (P. Robinson),13.19
- Penalties - McMenemy (G) 1.44; K. Robinson (G) (major) 4.08; Larmond (G) 4.22; Hall (M) 7.40; Radvak (M) Lane (G) (double minors) 11.44; K. Robinson (G) 14.14; Gervais (M) 14.19; Hay (G) 18.29.

- THIRD PERIOD
6. Georgetown - McMullen (Dwyer, P. Robinson), . . .3.10
 7. Georgetown - Leswick (Larmond), . . .6.59
 8. Georgetown - P. Robinson (Lane), . . .15.05
- Penalties - Laval (G) 11.44; Hall (M) 14.13; McMullen (G) 15.16.



ONE OF THREE MILTON TEAMS to receive awards from the Four Town Tourney were the Milton Pee Wees who won the championship in their division. The Novices won a championship and the Bantams were the best in the consolation round. Graham Riddell, Coach Bob Watkins and James Harkin receive the award from Charlie Thomson, a member of the Acton Legion Hockey Executive. (Staff Photo)

Milton minors take command in Four Town Tournament play

By Bob Watkins

Milton teams skated to a major share of the silverware at the annual Four Town Tournament at Acton Saturday. The Novice and Pee Wee clubs secured the Championships in their respective divisions, while the Bantam team handily copped the Consolation Series.

On this first springlike weekend of the year, Acton extended its usual warm welcome to the hundreds of gladiators and spectators from Fergus, Georgetown and Milton, who filled Acton, Community Centre. The Minor Sports Committee of the Acton Legion put a lot of time and effort into making this a most successful event.

NOVICE

Brian Wilson and Terry Fitzpatrick shared the netminding duties, as Milton blanked Acton 4 - 0 in opening Novice action, while Georgetown whitewashed Fergus 13 - 0 in the other series. Gary Dance and Terry Nova soloed for Milton in the first and second periods. In the last period, Allen Duncan hit from Steve Hannon, and Nova combined with Dance and Hannon to wrap up the shutout.

Acton picked up their only tournament trophy as they outlasted Fergus 3 - 2 in the Consolation round of the Novice section. This also marked the best showing of all the Fergus entries, as a late game rally just ran out of time.

Georgetown put up a fierce checking game in the Championship final, but wilted in the final seven minutes, as Milton came on strongly to claim a 5-1 triumph.

In the first frame, a single by Gary Dance was followed by a marker by Dave Marshall, on a relay from Allen Duncan and Kevin Howden. Grant Bodnar netted Georgetown's only score in the second period, on a pass from Guegon. Close checking slowed the action in the first half of the final frame, until a pass from Eric Ellison to Brad

Labinowicz broke open the game in Milton's favour. Then Kevin Howden made a successful scoot down left wing, and Labinowicz counted his second goal of the game a few moments later.

PEE WEE

In the Pee Wee preliminaries, Acton bombed Fergus 10 - 0, while Milton battled back in the dying moments of their contest to overcome a 5 - 2 deficit and eke out a 6 - 5 squeaker.

Davies from Herrington gave Georgetown a first frame lead, which increased in the second stanza, as Inglis connected on a pass from Bellamy. Minutes later, Ron Rowley set up Steve McCann to finally put Milton on the score sheet. McCann opened the third period scoring from Andy Wiseman to momentarily deadlock the issue. Then Georgetown took command of the contest with three quick counters to give them a 5 - 2 lead. Noble made the plays for singles by Osborne and Inglis, and Bellamy completed a combination from Davies and Herrington. With five minutes left to play, Milton bottled up the action in their opponents' end, and during the melee, Mark Hyatt and Andy Wiseman combined for a goal apiece to narrow the gap to 5-4.

With forty seconds remaining, Milton pulled their goalkeeper, and the added power allowed Steve McCann to fire the tying tally. In the final twenty seconds, McCann rapped in a goalmouth relay from Tony Saliba and Mark Hyatt to gain the close decision.

Although Georgetown had no trouble in winning the Pee Wee Consolation series with an 8 - 0 victory, the Fergus netminder at least deserved honorable mention for bravery under fire. He literally made dozens of fine saves as the Georgetown club skated rough shod over his teammates.

Acton jumped into an early lead in the Pee Wee Championship final, as Marshall singled, and Hargrave scored on a pass from Coles. However Randy Rogers combined from Mark Hyatt and Ron Rowley, and then Rowley soloed to even the count before the end of the period.

Acton regained a short-lived lead early in the middle stanza, as Storey completed a relay from Taylor and Marshall. But that was all for Acton, as Milton moved into high gear with Rowley hitting from Andy Wiseman to

again tie the score. Steve McCann counted from Mark Hyatt to close out the period.

In the final frame, Wiseman lengthened the lead to 5 - 3 on a pass from Steve Marshall, and then Dave Robertson capped the scoring with a fine solo effort. Jim Harkin and Graeme Riddell split the goaltending chores for the Milton Pee Wees.

BANTAM

Georgetown broke out with a four goal spurge in the final frame to upset Milton 5 - 3 in the initial Bantam round. A first period goal by Rick Jubb assisted by Bob Rusk matched a Georgetown marker by Ivans from Long. Rick Jubb helped Bob Bradbury secure a second frame lead for Milton. The last stanza belonged to Ivans of Georgetown, as he counted twice and also made the plays for tallies by Fenley and Nivep. Kerry Kitchen set up Randy Howden for Milton's lone reply.

Georgetown outlasted Acton 3 - 1 in a closely fought contest for the Bantam Championship final. This was the only successful tourney bid by Georgetown representatives.

Fergus managed to skate with the local Bantams for two periods of the Consolation round, but Milton overwhelmed them with five goals in the final frame to complete a 10 - 0 rout. Brad Evans and Howie Wrigglesworth were not overly busy as they shared the shutout honors for the victors.

Mark Grenke teed off for Milton in the opening period, followed by Phil Colleen's counter assisted by Rick Jubb and Bob Bradbury. Kerry Kitchen, Bob Rusk and Jim Robertson notched midframe markers, with assists going to Bill Clarridge, (2), and Randy Howden. Third period salvos were fired by Kim Mountain, Don Leslie, Bob Bradbury, Bill Clarridge, and Phil Colleen. Assistants were Rusk, (2), Kitchen, Bradbury, Jubb and Maurice Curtis.

Merchants like Milton Arena tie series with Georgetown

Some people will tell you home ice doesn't make any difference in a hockey game. Don't believe them.

After being thumped 11-3 and 10-2 in the same week by the Georgetown raiders, Merchants returned to home sweet home and sent the Raiders away stinging from a 4-3 defeat on Friday.

Rick Cole started things off for the Merchants early in the first period when he chased in on a pattern play. Don Hearn dug the disc out of the corner, passed to Jim Cole, who dumped it over to brother Rick for the counter.

A minute and six seconds later Tom Hay scored from Ron Lane to even things up. Second period goals by Bob Larmond from Tom Hay and Kent Robinson from Paul Robinson and Brent McMullen gave the Raiders a 3-1 lead.

Craig Brush closed the gap when he scored on Graham Hearn's rebound. Hearn swung in and left the rebound from the alert center. It was midway through the second period before Rick Cole scored his second goal of the game. Hearn, Rick and Jim Cole swept in three abreast, Hearn shot and Peavoy dropped the puck. Cole

tucked it in the open corner and the game was tied up.

Not long after Cole's stying goal Don Hearn deked around Phil Lavell and shot twice before knocking his own rebound by Peavoy in the Raider cage for the winner.

The game, a real cliffhanger at that, marked the fourth game in the series that had been won on home ice.

Goalie Bob Lee split the duties

with Lloyd Vaughan. Vaughan complained of a sore knee.

Champion Sports Page

Leswick too hot for Merchants Raiders take lead in series

Milton Merchants held on for two periods Wednesday night but Terry Leswick and company ran rampant in the final stanza. Leswick scored four of his five Georgetown goals in the third period.

Merchants trailed 2-0 in the first period, 4-2 in the second and then suffered a third period let-down and wound up losing 10-2. It was the second time in

two games the Raider scoring went into two figures.

Leswick scored the first goal of the game from Tom Hay. He picked up the rebound and banged it by Vaughan. Hay set up Ron Lane for the second goal midway through the first period on a nice pass. Lane beat Vaughan from about 20 feet out, catching the far side.

The Raiders controlled the first period but by no great margin. Both goals were scored with Milton a man short.

Ron Lane set the Raiders ahead 3-0 in the second period on their third power play goal. Milton scored their only two goals of the game within a minute of each other and for a short while looked like they were really in the game.

Jim Cole scored on a quick shot from the faceoff from brother Rick and just a minute later Don Hearn brought the Merchants to within one goal of the Georgetown team.

Hall shot the puck from the point but it was knocked down. Jan Riddell pushed towards the net and Don Hearn finished the play off. Georgetown was short-handed from about the five minute mark to the 10 minute mark of the second period.

It was during this period the Merchants put forth their most convincing effort, but they could not cash in on the tying goal. Had they scored the equalizer before Robinson scored for Georgetown, the game may have had a different complexion.

Paul Robinson found himself alone in front of the Milton cage

and beat the defenseless Vaughan. The same Robinson scored later in the same period.

The third period belonged to Terry Leswick. Leswick scored four goals and Paul Robinson scored his third goal of the game. The game put Raiders ahead 2-1 in the series and made it possible for them to finish the series in Georgetown Sunday.

Ted Hood, Don Hearn, and the Cole brothers turned in wholehearted efforts. Vaughan's record of 21 goals in two games leaves little to cheer about but it would be only fair to say he has been the victim of circumstances rather than poor netminding. Georgetown outshot the Merchants 41-23 Wednesday and earned each of their 10 goals.

Grudge match sale starts

Tickets went on sale this week for the Police-Firemen broom-ball benefit game that is being staged in Milton Arena April 21 at 8 p.m.

It's the second annual "grudge match" between the two forces, and promises to be the entertainment highlight of the season. All proceeds from the game will be turned over to the North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded.

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Sports forum

by bob burtt

The Merchants are going to have to be on their best behavior and play top notch hockey if they intend using their skates again after Friday night.

Sunday's loss in Georgetown marked the most crucial blow in the series. The Merchants must win an away game if they are going to take the championship.

Sunday's game was labeled "Milton" from the word go. The Raiders left themselves wide open, spending the greatest portion of the first two periods in the penalty box.

A lack of team work was apparent. The Merchants seem to lose touch with their passing plays when they enter the Georgetown rink. Some of the players tried to go in alone too often. On other occasions the passing was off. The final shots on net amounted to only 26 for each team. Of their 26, Milton had 13 in the first period and then faded.

The Raiders scored five successive goals, two in the second and three in the third and managed to keep things well intact in the final stanza.

There is a good possibility Georgetown will not be able to get their rink if a seventh game is necessary. It is hard to project the significance of the home ice. But after five games no one has lost on home ice or won on away ice.

It would be the ultimate in dramatic finishes to see the seventh and final game of the series played on neutral ice.

Steve Lawrence's absence has been felt at the blue line. Lawrence, one of the hardest hitters on the team, has probably the best point shot as well. He has been out of action since he broke his ankle in the first game against Georgetown.

Milton novices will be packing their skates and sticks soon in preparation for the International Novice Hockey Week at Brampton Memorial Arena March 16 through March 23.

The Brampton Tournament will draw 50 teams in four different classifications and is known to be the largest novice tournament in the world.

Each team plays at least two games. Milton will complete in the C division. Other teams in that division are Goderich, Hespeler, Ingersol, Leamington, Markham, Paris, St. Marys, Saltfleet (Windsor), Simcoe and Tillsonburg.

Tri-County action will be at its best this weekend. The Pee-Wees will settle their quarter final series with Collingwood here Saturday night while the Juveniles get into the semi-final clash with Bowmanville in Bowmanville Saturday and here Sunday afternoon.

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