



# Sports forum

by bob burrill

"They'll go all the way for the Ontario Championship" boasted Joe Auger, pointing to the Merchants as they skated through their warm-ups Friday night prior to game time.

At the time we accepted Auger's forecast as being in jest or at least partly so. But by the end of the second period with Milton leading 12-4, Auger was in a better position to argue than when he had made his statement.

Two days later Merchants travelled to Thornhill where they impressed fans with prolific goal scoring displays recording an 11-2 win over the Thornhill puck chasers. With the two weekend victories tucked securely in the bag the club returned home seven points ahead of second place Oakville whom they meet here Friday.

The Thornhill win is only what could be expected when a first place club meets one in the cellar. Thornhill has accumulated only one point this year. The Lindsay story is a different one, however. With 12 points the Lindsay club is second only to Newmarket which rules the roost in the East with 22 points.

If what Thornhill showed here Friday night was a performance of the second best club in their division, it sure isn't saying much for their division and the other teams in it. Perhaps it was a bad night, otherwise it would be more than safe to predict a victory for the Western division team in the playoffs.

For individuals on the Milton squad it was a grand old weekend to boost scoring averages. Guys like Don Chuchmach and Gary Hudson came through with flying colors in the two-day scoring spree. Chuchmach topped his average by adding nine points over the weekend, while Hudson picked up an additional eight points during the two games.

Hudson, Don Hearn and Marty Seeds all joined the hat trick club over the weekend while Marty O'Neil fired four goals in the Friday night encounter.

Until this weekend the chief criticism was the Merchants' inability to put the puck in the net. They were outshooting opposition by fantastic margins only to collect a single goal lead.

After netting 25 goals in two games it would be a little rough to indicate that there was no one with that goal-scoring knack. While the Merchant shooters hustled for their goals, Friday's goaltending was a heyday for the Milton shooters and helped up the margin considerably.

If there was a weakness on the team now it would have to be on their own blue line. While they have three of the best defencemen in the league in Bob Robson, John Gagne and Ken Parton, all veterans, they do miss Kip Tuckwell. While Ray Tonelli is a big boy and a capable lad he doesn't have the experience and the knowhow to fit into Tuckwell's boots yet, but the experience is bound to help bring him along.

Goaltending remains more of an unknown quantity on the Merchant club than any other area. Both Doug Unsworth and Brian Carter have shown they know their stuff but still haven't received many rigorous workouts. With Carter and Unsworth alternating and two juvenile goaltenders in the wings Milton should have little problem with puckstoppers this year or next.

## Merchants extend lead to 7 points

Hot on the heels of a 14-4 scoring spree against Lindsay Friday night in Milton, the Merchants continued displaying their scoring prowess, this time downing Thornhill Mustangs 11-2 in Thornhill Sunday.

Merchants poured four goals past Ian MacKlin in the Thornhill nets before the end of the first period, scored once in the second and then capped the encounter off with a five goal outburst in the final period.

Gary Hudson started the scoring off with Don Chuchmach assisting on the first goal at the 14 second mark of the first period. Ken Parton wasted little time in becoming the second Merchant to break the scoring barrier.

Hudson hit again in the first period and once in the third to complete his hat trick for the night and assisted on one other goal.

Chuchmach, collecting a good share of the points Friday was in the money again Sunday, posting two goals and three assists for a five point effort.

Ken Parton and Bob Robson both scored a pair while Marty O'Neil and Keith Bridgman singled, rounding out the Merchant scoring Sunday.

Robson and Bridgman assisted twice each while O'Neil was credited with a lone assist. As is their tradition this season the Merchants managed 30 minutes of resting time in the sin bin as compared to 18 minutes levied against the Mustangs. It was one of the few games this season where referees issued no major penalties. Merchants will receive a more rigorous testing Friday when the Oakville Blades travel here. The last meeting here ended in a wild brawl.

## Comeback effort provides deadlock

Milton Legion Bantams struggled to come from behind a 2-0 deficit against Burlington Bantams here Sunday, to come up with a 2-2 tie.

Burlington scored twice in the first period and worked to a deadlock in the second period and Milton pushed for a two goal effort in the third period to tie up the game.

Rick Bridgman broke the ice of Milton at the 4:50 mark of the third period on a play from Scott McKenzie and Wade

Bekar. At the 12:45 mark of the final period Gary Hunt netted the equalizer on a pass pattern from Rick Bridgman and Norm Mowbray.

With Milton down 2-0 goalie Glen Turner was hurt late in the game and backup goalie Kurt Smith was called upon to block rubber for the Milton skaters.

The defence tightened up and really went to work then, pulling together to produce the tie. While Smith was not rigorously tested he did get a shut-out.

Manager Bill Rowney said Milton outplayed Burlington all the way but the puck was just not bouncing the right way. "We hit a goal post and a cross bar before we finally scored" he said.

# Three register hat tricks Merchants hit scoring spree

Weeks from now Brian Marquis will look back on Nov. 21 as one of the worst nights of his goaltending career. Friday, Merchants took pot shots at Marquis from every angle possible, many of them providing the Lindsay youngster with a nightmare.

Merchants scored four goals in the first period, eight goals in the second and added a pair in the third to defeat Lindsay 14-4.

While it was probably the Lindsay goaltender's worst game of the season and their defense is not a strong one, let there be no doubt that the Milton pucksters hustled continually through the first two periods and took advantage of the situation.

The fact that Lindsay scored only four goals in the wide open fiasco is more of a discredit to the Lindsay forward lines rather than the Milton defense. Two of the Lindsay goals should never have got in. On one occasion it was a matter of not clearing and then the other was scored by the Milton defense trying to clear the puck.

Milton scored from every angle imaginable. Marty Seeds was credited with a goal on what had to be the biggest blooper of the night. Trapped at the blue line, Seeds got a weak shot off toward the Lindsay net. Somehow it skidded along the ice with nobody touching it and finally got to the goalie. He wound up and took a gastly swing at it only to turn and find it entrenched in the twine.

Had they had better goaltending, the Lindsay squad would have narrowed the margin considerably. All in all it was a sloppy affair with a small number of brilliant Milton rushes.

Marty O'Neil, Marty Seeds and Don Hearn combined efforts for a 10 goal production. O'Neil scored four goals and Seeds and Hearn both netted hat tricks and single assists.

Gary Naylor, Ray Tonelli, Gary Hudson and Frank King all fired single goals while Hudson was top point getter with five including four assists.

Keith Bridgeman assisted twice, Don Chuchmach four times, Ken Parton three times and Richard Murray and John Gagne both picked up assists.

Milton outshot their opponents 47 to 17. They led at the end of the first period 4-2, at the end of the second 12-4 and then added a pair in the final period to win 14-4.

Keeping in line with the rest of the game statistics, Milton drew more time in penalties than Lindsay. Milton had 35 minutes, Lindsay 28. Don Hearn received the only major of the game for spearing at 18:49 of the final period.

Ray Tonelli, who was with the club earlier, saw action Friday. He replaces Kip Tuckwell on defense. Richard Murray saw his first game with the Merchants last night.

## Merchants pull ahead

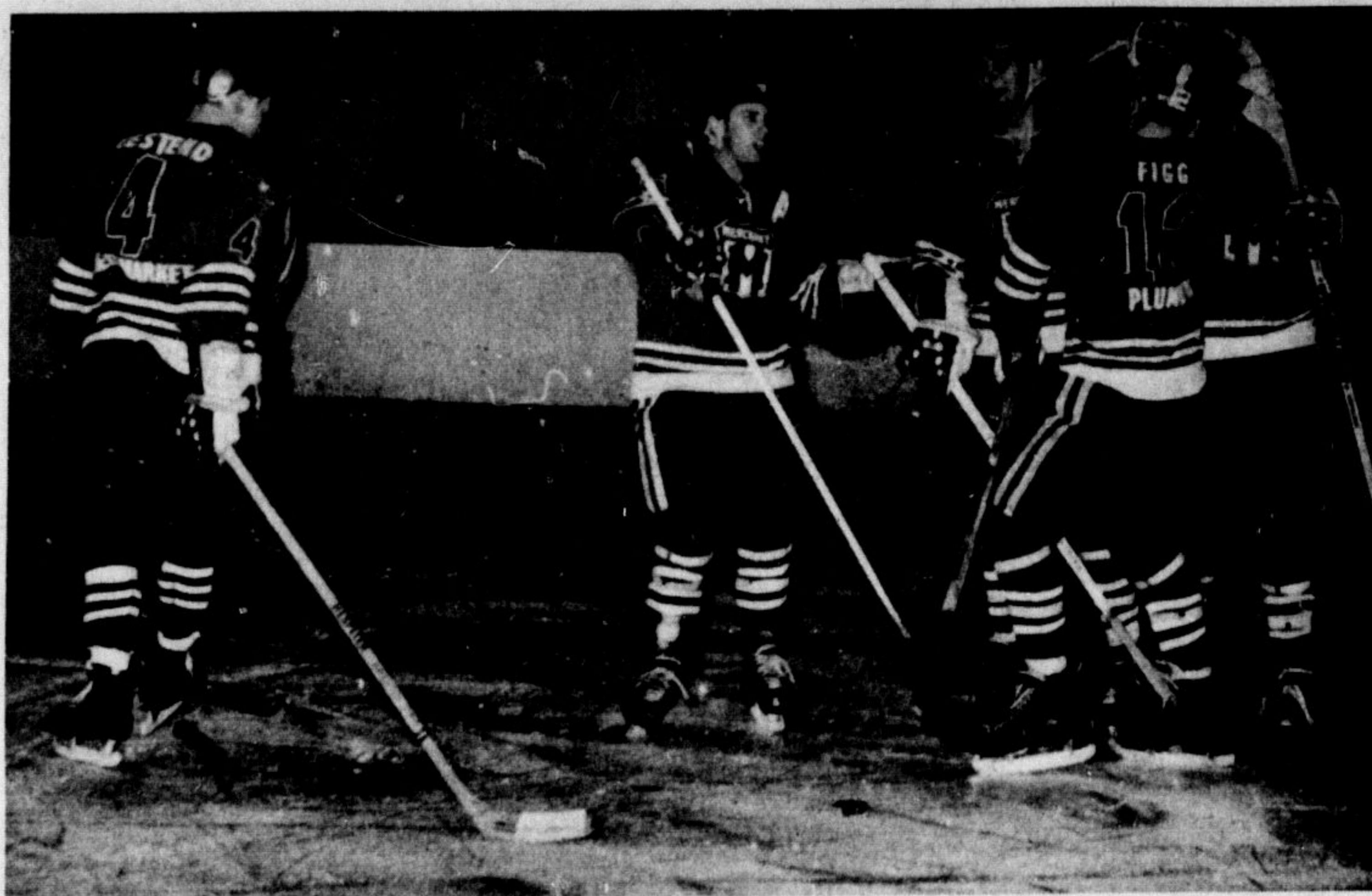
Milton Merchants widened their gap adding four points to their first place status over the weekend and individuals on the club boosted scoring averages by collecting 25 goals and a multitude of assists during the two-game weekend.

### STANDINGS (including SUN. NOV. 23)

WESTERN DIVISION					
Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts.
Milton	12	8	2	2	18
Oakville	10	5	4	1	11
Streetsville	10	4	5	1	9
Thornhill	11	0	10	1	1

EASTERN DIVISION					
Team	GP	W	L	T	Pts.
Newmarket	12	11	1	0	22
Lindsay	12	5	5	2	12
Ajax	10	5	4	1	11
Bowmanville	12	5	6	1	11
Port Hope	11	2	6	3	7

Today, many young men find their best vocational aptitudes exist in fields where their fathers hold influential positions.



THIS IS ONE of many similar celebrations hockey game. Merchants went on to a second Merchant players engaged in Friday night as they decisive victory Sunday by beating Thornhill 11-2. (Staff Photo)

## Milton House league hockey statistics

(Inc. Nov. 22)					BANTAM				
NOVICE					MIDGET				
Team	W	L	T	Pts	Team	W	L	T	Pts
Beech	4	1	0	8	Harris	3	0	1	7
Mowbray	4	1	0	8	Ladwits	2	0	1	6
Pontiacs	3	2	0	6	Police	4	1	0	8
Crest	2	2	1	5	Dept. Store	3	1	0	6
Rebeka's	1	3	1	3	Brownies	2	3	0	4
Firemen	0	5	0	0	Hillmer	0	4	1	1
					Local 4970	0	4	1	1

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## Champion Sports Page

### "B's win contest 6-3

Milton Pee Wee "B" team scored a 6-3 win over Richmond Hill Saturday. Gary Dance opened the scoring for Milton on a play from John Roskam and Kevin McCoy scored the second Milton goal from Dance and Roskam.

Richmond Hill scored once in the first period and then Milton went ahead on a goal by Guy McGinnis making the score 3-1.

Gary Dance scored once in the second and again in the third period while Craig Thomas popped the last goal in with assists going to Roger Delnin, Perry Caputo (2) and Kevin McCoy.

### Snow Jets beaten 4-2

### Misses N.B. trip

"Burlington was really up for the game with us and they played real well," Milton's Jim Snow Jets manager said after dropping a 4-2 decision to Burlington Bantams Monday night.

Milton has a record of three wins, two losses and a pair of ties in seven outings this year. Dave Heipel and Rick Arnold were Milton goal scorers while Harold Merry and Greg Chuchmach assisted. Chuchmach assisted on both goals.

Brad Evans and Pat Devlin played outstanding games in the Milton net.

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## Lose lead beaten 6-4

Milton Trafalgar Ford Novices battled Burlington in a topsy turvy contest Monday in Milton, finally losing 6-4. Burlington led in the early stages of the game but Milton plugged along and managed to pull ahead 4-3 at one point.

The Milton club tired late in the game and their checking and skating was not up to what they are capable of. Three late goals put the Ford in a trailing position.

Milton goal scorers were Dave Marshall, Dwayne Hamilton, Steve Blair and Eric Ellison.

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