



Sports forum

by bob burtt

Dreams of Ontario championships will be focussed on Ed's Welding Pee Wees in Milton, for the rest of this season anyway. The Pee Wees, who have been a show of strength all season, are the only Milton representatives still waging war in Tri-County or All-Ontario circles.

Milton won Pee Wee honors in tournament circles as well as cropping the Tri-County honors against Hespeler this year and have already established a one game lead in the second round of the O.M.H.A. playdowns against Orangeville. Milton walked away with an 8-0 victory after the first meeting.

Having a hot Pee Wee team is becoming a sort of tradition in town. For the past two years Milton representatives have battled it out right down to the wire, going to the provincial finals last year and the semi-finals the year before.

This week both the Midgets and Bantams bid farewell to Tri-County or provincial laurels. Midgets lost out to Hespeler in what had to be a real homer's series. Milton lost 5-0 and 8-2 in the two games in the Hespeler rink and came up with a dramatic rush in the last nine seconds of the game to beat Hespeler in Milton. Milton looked every bit as good as Hespeler during the game played here but fell apart when they hit the Hespeler ice.

The Midget loss was an exasperating experience for the Snow Jets. After running Hespeler wild in the Milton rink and losing by one goal they travelled to Hespeler to repeat the same act, again losing by one goal and according to spectators outplaying the Hespeler team.

Losing by one goal is hard to take anytime but twice in a two game series to establish a championship is more than any heart should have to take.

With the Midgets and Bantams bowing out this week and the Novice and Juvenile teams already out of commission, all eyes are on the Pee Wees and of course the Juniors. Both clubs should have little trouble getting through their current series. The 8-0 win for the Pee Wees in the opener would be evidence enough for the odds to run in their favor.

As for the Juniors, Thornhill Lions just isn't the kind of club that will put Milton down, not under ordinary circumstances in any case. But the Lions could hurt the Merchants indirectly. If things go as they have all year Milton will walk over the Thornhill representatives without really having to try too hard.

That is where the problem could be. Should Milton walk by Thornhill and have a soft time, the tough competition that awaits them after the first series will seem more like a brick wall than just tough competition.

The tough competition referred to is Newmarket and if the Merchants aren't in their best form when they meet the Redmen they will have to hope for something miraculous, because they won't beat that club with a half hearted effort.

Manager Al Parton and coach Joe Auger have earlier suggested they could beat them if they played their best. They probably can too, but it will have to be 60 minutes of their best and none of the cheap penalties for which they have grown notorious. Other than a victory in the first series, a prediction would be pretty risky business.



Milton Minor Hockey House league happenings

By John McLean

MIDGETS

Pigment moved into second place as they trounced first place Harris 5-1. Goal scorers for the victory were Robert Stringer, Bryan Howard, George Presniak, Steve Smith and Bill Purbrick. Bryan Howard was the best man on the ice throughout the game as he set up three goals as well as the one he scored. George Presniak also drew one assist. The goal for Harris was scored by Bob Ferrer from Ron McLeod and Rick Low.

Glenn Gibson scored for Bill's after a minute in the first period as he counted on a play from Don Leslie and Rick McTrach, but Knight's came on strong as Harold Sales fired a pair of goals in leading them to a 4-1 win. Gary McDougall and Brian Lyons added one apiece for the victory while assists came from Steve Clarke twice, Bill Dennis, Tom Wills and Gary McDougall.

Benny Nyholt scored three big goals in the first period to lead Park Farm to a 7-4 triumph over Ledwith's. Single markers came from Allen Ayr, Steve Brancier, Keith Austin and Duncan Craig. Bob Sargent and Ken Austin each helped out twice while single assists went to Jack Fitch, Randy Howden, Marty Cairns and Steve Brancier. Bill Clarridge scored two goals for Ledwith's while Leslie Wilson and Rocky Barker added singletons. John Wheelihan and Les Wilson drew single assists.

BANTAM

Van McPhail scored twice to lead Bell Brothers to a 3-1 win over Department Store on Wednesday night. Robert Langridge scored once and also drew an assist while Dave McNeil added a pair of assists for the winners. Gord Meechan replied for Dept. Store getting help from Mark Hyatt.

Craig Brown preserved a 3-3 tie for Brownies as he scored all three goals in their game with Police on Saturday morning. Brown counted two of his goals on solo efforts getting help from John Schreiber on the last one. John Volpe led the Police squad with a pair of goals while Brian Drew picked up a singleton. Steve Henderson, Kent Ismond and goalie Kim Deslaurier picked up single assists.

Charlie Alcock was the dominant figure on the ice as Department Store ended a 3-3 deadlock to defeat Local 4970, 5-3. Charlie scored the winning goal as well as setting up two earlier markers and in general controlled the game when he was on the ice. Graham Riddell added two goals and two assists while Neal Hayward and Brad Joyce scored singles. Allan MacKinnon and Sergio Mazzorato assisted once each. Ed Ford, Tony Pedulla and Paul Wilton replied for Local while assists went to Ed Ford, Paul Wilton and Dan Willmott.

PEE WEE

Lumber and Canadian Tire fought to a 2-2 draw as Cdn. Tire completely outplayed the Lumber crew but found goaltender Brian Wilson almost unbeatable. Roger Del Nin and Peter Rota were the marksmen for Lumber while Kevin McCoy and Roger Del Nin assisted once each. Russell Price and Chris Orpen with the tying goal were the goal getters for Cdn. Tire and assists went to Terry Nova and Kevin Kitchen.

Fay's moved within two points of first place Hood's by downing the Chicken Kings 4-2. Pat Haggert was Fay's best as he fired a pair for the win while Gerry Timbers and the richard Northcote added one each. Northcote and John Roskam drew a pair of assists each. Robbie Frame and Alan Duncan



CAPTAIN DON HEARNS presents proceeds of a charity hockey game to Andy Keilty, a member of the Board of Trustees for the Ted Hood Memorial Fund. Merchant president Dave Brush and trustees Bruce Hood and Nick Chuchmach are also pictured. — (Staff Photo)

Champion Sports Page

Hearns, Hern each register three goals against Lions

"I just don't feel well tonight," Captain Don Hearns complained to Merchant officials before the Thornhill game here



DON HEARNS

Friday night. By the time the third period had ended Hearns had scored three goals to spearhead the Merchant attack along with Graham Hern who also recorded a hat trick to lead the Merchants in their 10-0 route against Thornhill Lions.

Ian Macklin was by the far the busier goalie. Merchant goalie Doug Unsworth, while not tested severely, did play flawless hockey in the net coming up with the Merchants' first shut-out of the season.

Macklin frustrated Merchant rushers as he held them off singlehanded for the first part of the opening period. He was all that held the Thornhill club from being run right out of the rink. While Macklin did stop sure goals on several occasions, only one of the four counters registered in the first stanza resulted from a well executed play.

Graham Hern executed the scoring on a pass from behind the net from Don Hearns. Hearns scored two of his three goals in the first period. He fought Macklin for possession out in front of the net and when he finally got it had trouble getting a shot away and then finally popped it in the open corner. A shot later in the period went off the goalie's pad for Hearns' second goal. Hudson and John Gagne assisted.

Hearns was in the right spot at

the right time for his third goal midway through the second period when he banged a puck in from just in front of the net.

Hern scored a goal every period. His second period marker was a well developed play. Hudson fed Hern just a few yards away and with a burst of



GRAHAM HERN

speed Hern flew in, crossed the goal crease and flipped it in on the close side. Hern concluded the scoring on a shot from 20 feet out.

Gary Naylor combined with Keith Bridgman and Gerry Nash for the most picturesque goal of the contest. The three started a three on one rush at centre ice, worked the puck back and forth in a network of pass plays and finally put it on Mayler's stick for the final shot.

With assistance from Bridgman, Naylor scored his second goal of the game. Gary Hudson and Bridgman also scored for the Merchants.

BLUE LINE BANTER: Five hundred and eighty paid customers watched the Merchant game. Crowds are expected to be good for the playoffs. Judging from past encounters the first series against Thornhill should be a four game affair.

It costs over 30 million dollars annually to maintain Canada's forest fire fighting forces.

SALUTE TO

Marty Seeds—right wing. Age: 19. Home: Milton. Born: Toronto. Minor Hockey: Milton. In his second year with the Merchants. Played All-Star hockey for Milton since Pee Wee.

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MILTON ARENA

THURSDAY, Feb. 12
Figure Skating 4:30-7:30
Pro-Am 7:45-10:00

FRIDAY, Feb. 13
Thornhill vs. Merchants 8:30 p.m. Playoffs

SATURDAY, Feb. 14
Milton M. H. 6:30 to 1
Public Skating 2 to 4 - 25c
Pee Wee Ontario Playdowns 4:45 p.m.
Tri County Hockey 5 to 7
Public Skating 8:30-10:30 - 50c

SUNDAY, Feb. 15
Tri County
8 games 4 - 7 p.m.

MONDAY, Feb. 16
Monday Nites 4:30 - 6
Tri County A Clubs
7 to 10:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, Feb. 17
Figure Skating 4:30 - 7:30
Pro-Am 9 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, Feb. 18
Adult & Pre School Skating
2 - 4 10c and 25c
M.M.H. House League 5:30-9:00

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... and the walls came tumbling down

When Milton Junior Merchants lose they lose badly and when they win it is equally decisive. Friday night on home ice the Milton team was all power as it walked to a 10-0 victory over lowly Thornhill Lions but Sunday in Ajax the power was gone and the Merchants came out of Ajax, heads low, wondering how they had managed a 13-5 loss to that club.

The 13-5 score was a fair indication of the way things went for the Merchants. Gerry Marty Seeds, Ken Parton, Sunny Nash and Doug Unsworth were all out of action. As if that was not enough trouble the bus broke down and delayed the game for an hour.

After the first part of the game was finished and Milton was trailing 6-0, the thought probably occurred that perhaps they should have never got on the bus in the first place. Just nothing would go right for the Merchants at all.

Standing in for Unsworth Brian Carter took an all out

bombing and received little help. The score was 6-0 before Milton got a goal. Gary Hudson broke the ice with an opener from Ray Tonelli. Hudson scored again from Graham Hern and Don Hearns to provide the only spark in the Milton roster.

The Merchants open the first round of the playdowns against Thornhill here Friday night. Thornhill has yet to win a game and will have a tough time getting by Merchants in the first round but what happens after then is anybody's guess.

Bantams get gate in Hespeler series

There is just something about the Milton Legion Bantams and the Hespeler Arena that doesn't seem to give. The first game of the Tri-County Championship series saw Milton blanked 5-0. The same two teams tangled here with Milton coming out on top 3-2 in a real classic.

Friday in the series final the two teams met and Milton

apart, taking an 8-2 trouncing in Hespeler. "It doesn't matter how you look at it, our guys played lousy", manager Bill Rowley noted.

Hespeler skated to a 3-0 commanding lead in the first period and popped five in after that. Club management couldn't pinpoint one area where the Milton club fell down but it was just an altogether different show than the one they put on in their own arena last week.

It was halfway through the second period before Milton got on the scoreboard and they never scored again until the third period. Rick Bridgman scored both Milton goals. Bekar assisted on the first one and Dave Roberts helped out on the second.

The Bantams are now finished with any ambitions they had for Ontario honors and will drop into the consolation series.

Reunion

Three Miltonians had a good reunion in Boston Thursday evening of last week, after the Boston-Philadelphia hockey game.

Bruce Hood was there to referee the game and he ran into Doug Hearns and Tom Gooding of Milton who were in the audience. Doug and Tom play on the varsity squad at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute at Troy, N.Y. and the team had gone together to Boston to watch the NHL game and stay over to play Boston College in a hockey game Friday night. The trio got talked after the game and talked-what else, hockey.

Ski race at Fairview

Approximately 20 schools in the area will participate in a cross country ski rally Saturday at Fairview school. The race will begin at 10 a.m. and run a similar course to a cross country foot race held in the fall.

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