

# Flyers throw game in final 10 min

## Mustangs must win Leonard optimistic

It appears to be the worst season on record. Nine losses and one win and six games remaining.

Milton District High School hockey Mustangs have to tighten their garter belts and win three or more games if they want to grab hold of the last playoff spot for Halton High Schools. There are seven of nine teams in the playoffs.

But coach Don Leonard isn't too worried. He believes the toughest part of the team's schedule is over and they now face weaker schools in the league. The Mustangs are looking to improve their record drastically.

They started the season decently, defeating Aldershot at Milton Memorial Arena on Nov. 16. The team had one hour of practice a week and that was on Wednesday mornings, the day of their home games.

Coach Leonard felt this hindered the development of his team. With the new facilities the team will now have Tuesday and Thursday practice times.

Leonard told The Champion that he feels most of the losses occurred during the third period. Facts show on the scoresheet that MDHS competitors outplayed and outscored Milton in the final stages of each game. Leonard said that was due to the lack of practice and conditioning.

He explained his players would become tired and unable to keep up with the play in the third periods and so would grab, slash, hold and hook to slow the other team down and stay in the play. Therefore, penalties have hurt the club's performance record.

He hopes the added practices will recondition his players.

The remaining six games are against the teams in the lower rung of the Halton standings. So far, Milton has faced T.A. Blakelock, Appleby and Elgin which are strong teams. Elgin, Appleby and Burlington Central players receive three practices a week, according to Leonard.

"This is the first year we have lost games by such a spread in goals," Leonard said. "I can't ever remember being beaten by more than four goals," he explained. But the coach is optimistic because the spirit of the team has not been weakened.

Milton will face Aldershot, Perdue and Oakville-Trafalgar High.

Practice attendance is good and the players are just a little upset with their past record this season. Leonard

said they feel they should have more wins. In a 7-3 loss to Appleby College the boys felt they were in the game and gave Appleby a good contest, until the final stages again.

"We need a win but we're still in there," Leonard said. "We need a total team effort."

"By being out of shape we can't skate with the other clubs in the third period. If you haven't a strong club to begin with, it is difficult to progress without practice time," he said.

The Mustangs have lost five players and picked up two more due to the semester system at the school. Mark

Kendrick, Chuck Mearns, Tim Smelko, and Craig Schriber graduated and John Cairns left. The team picked up Kevin Smith, a forward, and Dave Smith a defenceman.

Mustangs will make up two cancelled games. One is against Oakville-Trafalgar and the other is with Elgin.

The next action for the high school team is Feb. 6 when they host Perdue at the Laurier Ave. arena. Leonard expects more fan support at these games, which are played at 3:30 p.m. because of the close proximity of the arena to the school. He said he thinks increased fan support will aid the players' performances.

## Minor atoms win first OMHA qualifier game

Milton Minor Atom Docs and Dents took the first game 6-0 over Streetsville in their best three-of-five series, with the winner qualifying to play in the OMHA playdowns.

Don Vandenhuevel opened the scoring in the first period knocking in a Tim Rayner rebound then less than a minute later Mike "Digger" Delpapa put one up high on Streetsville netminder Ken Payle on a passout from Sean Davidson and Todd Horne.

The second period was scoreless with Streetsville coming very close only to be turned back by Steve Heagle and Craig Defreitas sharing

the Milton nets and a fine game by the Milton defence.

"Iron Mike" Dorion opened the third period scoring on a solo effort from his defensive position, thirty-one seconds later Darren Shaw fired home a pass from Captain Eric Chudleigh as the Docs and Dents began to wear down Streetsville.

Davidson and Chudleigh scored late in the game with Todd Horne picking up an assist.

The second game of this series is to be played in Milton on Saturday, Jan. 28 at 4 o'clock and the third game, Sunday, Jan. 29th at 4:30 p.m. in Streetsville.

By Peter McCusker  
The game appeared to be under control. Milton Flyers were leading the big-bad Streetsville Derbys 4-3 through nine minutes of the final period at Milton Memorial Arena Friday night.

But after the half of the final frame had expired, Milton Flyers awoke magically and proceeded to march to the penalty box, just like Streetsville wanted them to.

In doing so Flyers threw the game away. They flushed two points down the pipes by taking 26 minutes in penalties in the final 10 minutes of regulation play.

Minus the 10 minute misconduct to Rod Gooding, the remaining 16 minutes in penalties prevented Flyers from mounting any further scoring attack against Streetsville.

Before you could blink, Streetsville had tied the game and scored the winner all in 37 seconds. Moe Martin tied the game 4-4 at 10:43 and Marc Sinclair scored the winner at 10:06.

Flyer coach Gerry Inglis has stated many times this year that Flyers are a team that can beat Streetsville and that Derbys have only four or so players who can put the puck in the net. But what he doesn't tell you is that Derbys have Milton's number and can intimidate Milton Flyers into taking a loss on the chin.

Brian Gordon was snowed in Friday and couldn't make the game.

Ian Roberts' play in the Flyers' net has improved over the past two outings. Roberts isn't letting the puck go loose

as often as he had done previously. By this, he isn't giving the opposition much chance at tapping in rebounds. Streetsville only had 34 shots on Roberts and the goaltender is part of the reason the shots were lower than Streetsville's par.

Roberts appeared to be standing up better and gloving the puck again. Robert "Pie" Lee is out helping Roberts at Flyer practices, and coach Gerry Inglis said he appreciated the help from Lee.

Pierre Pilote was also playing well. Pilote is becoming a top checker and sets up plays. Todd Sheppard on the Flyer defence was strong standing at the buline and moved the puck out of their own end well.

Coach Inglis said the team had a "solid attitude" following the game.

Paul McCann scored Flyers' first goal to tie the game at 1-1 after Leo Bideau had already marked the Derbys' opener. Gary Vennor put Derbys up one at 13:53 and Mike Prestidge put Streetsville ahead 3-1 with 7:25 left on the clock in the second period. The first period was scoreless.

As the second period was closing Milton submitted two quick bids and tied the game. At 1:39 Steve Wilson scored

from Pierre Pilote and with 23 seconds left, Dave Turner scored with the assistance of Gasper Paul.

Milton grabbed the go ahead goal 52 seconds into the third period. Ron Smulders from Wilson and Pilote gave Flyers the hope they needed for the win. That was before Streetsville reversed the lead.

Georgetown Gemini proved to be no match for Milton Flyers once again as the local

crew walked away with a 10-3 win.

Ron Smulders scored a hat trick and Keith Yorke and Pierre Pilote tallied two goals each in the romp. Paul Martin, McCann and Gooding rounded out Flyer scoring with singles.

Milton held a 2-0 lead after the first period, Smulders and Yorke tallying. Flyers went to a 5-0 lead before Georgetown managed to light the score-

board with Paul Allison's goal. Tim Turner and Doug Barnes scored in the final period for Georgetown. Captain Chris Milne set up both Georgetown third period goals.

Milton Flyers had Tim Webster up from the MMHA Tri-County juveniles, as a backup for Ian Able before the playoffs are at hand or else Roberts will have to carry all the playoff pressure.

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