

Win quarter final

Milton Flyers drop Cougars with determination

Story and Photos
By Peter McCusker
Champion Sports

Nothing can be compared to the excitement of playoff hockey and there was nothing more important to 700 enthusiastic hockey fans Saturday night than to see their own Milton Flyers come from behind to eliminate Burlington Cougars from the OHA Central Ontario Junior "B" Playoffs.

Milton's Flyers had lost the first game of the series that closed after four games as coach Gerry Inglis had predicted. The 7-2 drubbing in Burlington February 13 was enough to make Flyers come alive and turn the tables.

The Friday night game in Burlington, game three of the series which Flyers won 4-1 to take a one game lead, was the best contest of the series according to Inglis. He said Flyers played perfect hockey. It was defenceman Mike Murray who recorded Milton's opening goal after Inglis had moved him to a wing position to use captain on Twiss on defence. Although Murray was a fish out of water he adjusted to the position well.

On Saturday Milton came from a 5-2 deficit in the third

period to gain the tie in the final seconds and scored the winning goal in the first overtime period.

"If our guys can play solid hockey we can go far," coach Inglis told The Champion. Inglis and Flyers are going to have to play a tight checking game as there are no really hot goal scorers on the club.

coach stated. Concerning a possible return final with Streetsville Inglis said Flyers can out-hit them as long as the officials don't try to control the game too much and let the boys play hockey.

Inglis said the Flyer defencemen were frustrated during the Burlington series with what Inglis described as "cheap calls" made by the officials. The officiating was inconsistent as the referees would often let blatant infractions go without being called, yet, would clamp down on minor incidents at different points through the series.

"Referees are mostly guys who couldn't play minor hockey so they went into refereeing," Inglis said. He said some of the newer referees don't know a clean body check from a trip, all they can do is blow their whistle." Inglis cited the example of Bill Devorski, an official who has been around the OHA leagues a few years and said, "with Devorski officiating we'll come out with six to 10 good penalty calls where the young referees end up using two score-sheets to record their calls."

He said the number of calls made fans upset and concerned about the game becoming too violent.

So Flyers are going to continue their hard checking and hitting game through their remaining contests, as far as they go.

Inglis had praise for Pierre Pilote following the quarter-final victory. Inglis said, "Pilote is a playoff hockey player. He's one of those guys on any playoff team who jumps to the top half dozen performers and really plays when the chips are down." He said a team has to have these type of players in the playoffs as it is usually these fellows who pull the team through.

Inglis had one story to relay about Flyer Rod Gooding. He told The Champion how Gooding came over to the bench late in the game and took himself off because he had problems beating Burlington's centre to the draw at faceoffs all evening. When the game was at the wire and Flyers had to win the draws, Gooding asked Inglis to have another player take the faceoff. Inglis sent in Pilote who did win the faceoff.

"You don't get that kind of dedication too often," Inglis said. The coach added, he knows he is getting a solid team effort when he has

becoming too violent.

Burlington's Charbonneau tied the game at a goal assisted by freewheeling Mike Carr, but it was their last marker.

Dave Turner scored in reply to the Burlington goal just over a minute later at 19:26 assisted by Paul Martin and Rod Gooding. Turner tallied his second of the evening from Gooding only 10 seconds into the second period.

Ron Smulders smacked the final Flyer tally in the third period at 18:42 to kill all suspicion of a Cougar comeback.

Game two Milton Flyers were down one game in the best-of-five quarter finals for the Junior B Central Ontario crown after taking a 7-2 thrashing in Burlington Monday evening.

An anxious Flyer crew was plagued with off-sides in the early going and Paul McCann and Brian Gordon completely missed the open net on one scoring chance at 11:14. Brian Gordon scored twice in the opening period of the first coming at 14:28 with Brent Murray assisting.

Ian Roberts came up with a great leg save at 10:40 and prevented Cougars from tying the game.

Gordon snapped his power-play goal after McCann and himself physically belted it out with Burlington defencemen in front of the net. Pierre Pilote assisted the goal.

Milton opened the second period at 17:32 when Rod Gooding passed to Dave Turner who was parked in front of the Cougar net. Turner banged it into the wide open side for Flyers to take a 3-0 lead.

Milton was bruising Burlington in this contest and were effective in taking the man off the puck. McCann and Gordon were especially

impressive as they fore-checked and made Burlington scramble in their own end. In the final period Burlington staged a comeback and Wayne MacLeod and Rob Rose scored in the first half to bring the game into contention. Pierre Pilote put on an insurance goal with Gooding's help at 7:59. Burlington's goals came when Flyers stopped hitting.

With two minutes remaining Burlington moved within a goal after Hal Montford scored. The final two minutes were tense and dramatic but Flyers held on to even up the series.

After Milton proved to themselves they could easily handle Burlington they had little trouble winning the next two games. They had the heart and desire of a team and looked like a winning hockey club in the last three games.

Flyers will be at home Friday night against Oakville Blades or Dixie Beethives, whoever wins that series being wrapped up this week. At press time Streetsville had two crushing wins over Georgetown and it appears they will be in the league finals.



GERRY INGLIS

"We're getting goals from everybody but what we have to do is check hard," he said. "We can hit with anybody in the league, maybe better, including Streetsville," the



HAPPY ROB FRAME holds up a jubilant Ian Roberts following the final buzzer which spelled victory for Milton and an early summer break for Burlington Cougars.



PIERRE PILOTE stretches for the puck to get another shot at the Burlington net. Goalie Todd Pearson scrambles to his feet after making a flop save.

cougar Mike Halstead to take a penalty as he dragged Gooding down from behind after the tenacious checker intercepted the puck and would have gone in alone on Burlington netminder Todd Pearson.

Bob Dolman put Burlington up 2-0 early in the second period at 18:59. Captain Ron Twiss scored Flyer's first goal of the game at 17:13 assisted by Pierre Pilote and Gaspar Paul.

Flyers were hitting tough as they have been throughout the series against Burlington. Even when playing one man short, five men to four and occasionally when two men short for a brief time. Flyers controlled the play well. Goalender Ian Roberts was superb and was tested by

Burlington shooters which had flop and diving saves on call. Roberts was ready and sharp in his execution bringing approval from the fans which filled Milton Memorial Arena.

Cougar captain Kevin Charbonneau made the tally 3-1 with his goal at 17:32 of the second period and Hal Montford gave Cougars an even greater lead at 14:18 of the same frame.

Although the score was lopsided the Flyers continued their aggressive hockey style and Pierre Pilote's fore-checking paid dividends when he made the score 4-2 with his goal at 12:11 assisted by Dave Turner and Twiss.

Mike Carr potted his second of the evening at 7:09 remaining in the second period. Cougars did not know at that time it would be their final goal Flyers would allow them.

With 34 seconds left in the second frame, Larry Payne took advantage of Pilote's digging and came up with Flyer's third goal.

Down 5-3 and starting the final period Milton Flyers had to have made a soul commitment in the dressing room and came out extra determined not to let this game slip away easily.

Mike Carr had been allowed to walk through the Flyer defencemen to score his goals almost single handedly.

At 12:40 in the third period Paul McCann's lightning reaction scored number four for Flyers after Brian Gordon battled two Cougars along the boards for possession of the disc.

The equalizer was potted with 7:18 remaining in the

third period as Rod Gooding took a pass from Paul Martin shortly after the faceoff in the Cougars end. Flyers had been applying the pressure and when the Gooding goal was scored the game became more exciting.

As the clock ticked away both teams took opportunities but the Milton defence was too solid to crack.

In the overtime period after 2:45 had been played, Gooding marked his second and equally important goal for the Flyers. Dave Turner and Paul Martin assisted in the winning goal. Flyers held on to the remaining 7:15 and frustrated the Cougars for the remainder of the first 10 minute overtime period.

Game Three In Burlington on Friday night a vocal group of Flyer fans kept the juniors hopping to a 4-1 win. Gerry Inglis said it was the best game of the four game series and there were enough Miltonians on hand to make it exciting.

Mike Murray scored Flyer's first goal 8:43 into the play as he performed on his new role as Flyer winger. Paul McCann and Brian Gordon were on the line and drew assists on the Murray goal.

Gordon snapped his power-play goal after McCann and himself physically belted it out with Burlington defencemen in front of the net. Pierre Pilote assisted the goal.

Milton opened the second period at 17:32 when Rod Gooding passed to Dave Turner who was parked in front of the Cougar net. Turner banged it into the wide open side for Flyers to take a 3-0 lead.

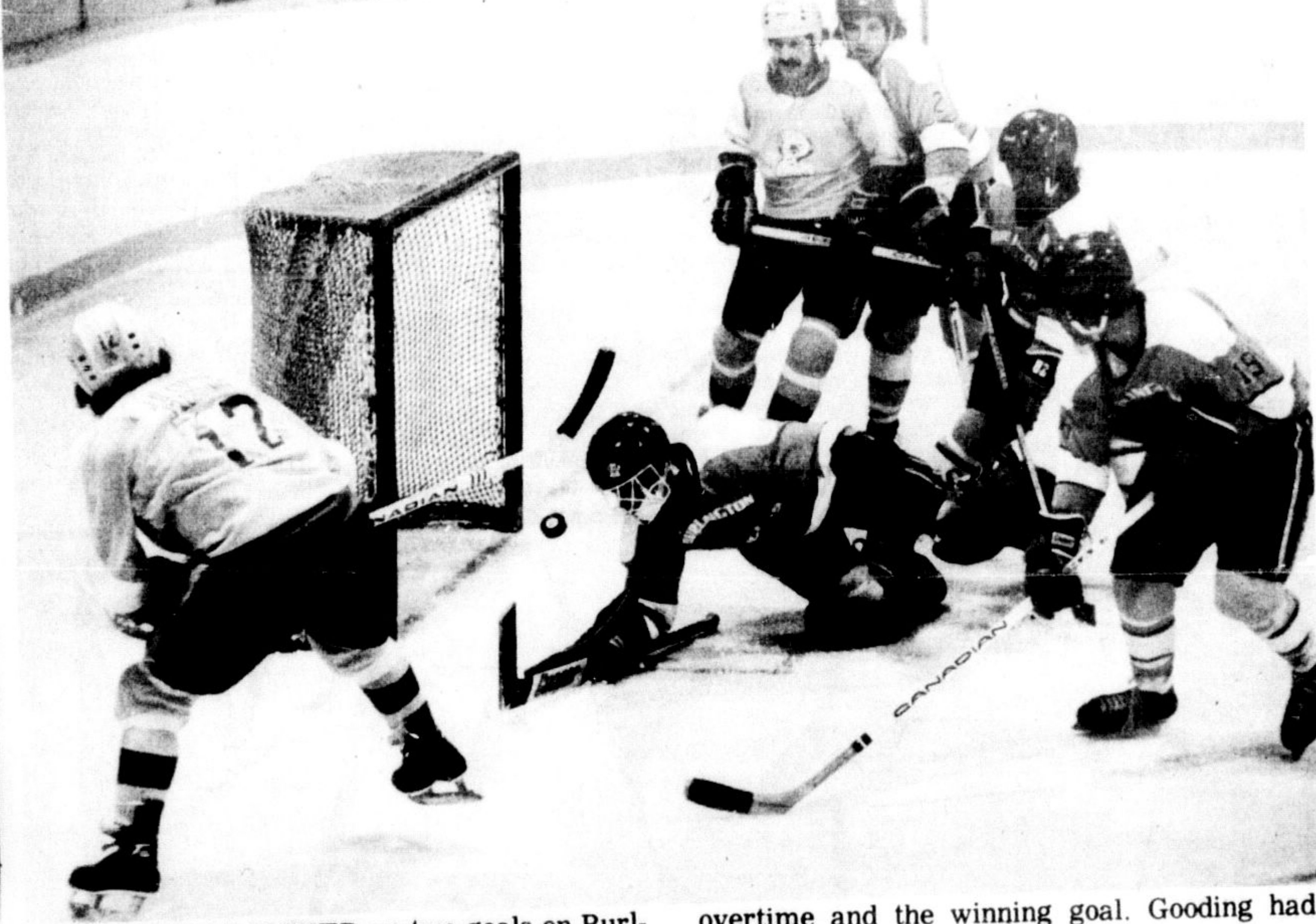
Milton was bruising Burlington in this contest and were effective in taking the man off the puck. McCann and Gordon were especially

impressive as they fore-checked and made Burlington scramble in their own end. In the final period Burlington staged a comeback and Wayne MacLeod and Rob Rose scored in the first half to bring the game into contention. Pierre Pilote put on an insurance goal with Gooding's help at 7:59. Burlington's goals came when Flyers stopped hitting.

With two minutes remaining Burlington moved within a goal after Hal Montford scored. The final two minutes were tense and dramatic but Flyers held on to even up the series.

After Milton proved to themselves they could easily handle Burlington they had little trouble winning the next two games. They had the heart and desire of a team and looked like a winning hockey club in the last three games.

Flyers will be at home Friday night against Oakville Blades or Dixie Beethives, whoever wins that series being wrapped up this week. At press time Streetsville had two crushing wins over Georgetown and it appears they will be in the league finals.



ROD GOODING PICKED up two goals on Burlington Saturday night. Two of the most important being the tying goal which forced

overtime and the winning goal. Gooding had Paul Martin assisting on both.



IAN ROBERTS

Burlington shooters which had flop and diving saves on call. Roberts was ready and sharp in his execution bringing approval from the fans which filled Milton Memorial Arena.

Cougar captain Kevin Charbonneau made the tally 3-1 with his goal at 17:32 of the second period and Hal Montford gave Cougars an even greater lead at 14:18 of the same frame.

Although the score was lopsided the Flyers continued their aggressive hockey style and Pierre Pilote's fore-checking paid dividends when he made the score 4-2 with his goal at 12:11 assisted by Dave Turner and Twiss.

Mike Carr potted his second of the evening at 7:09 remaining in the second period. Cougars did not know at that time it would be their final goal Flyers would allow them.

With 34 seconds left in the second frame, Larry Payne took advantage of Pilote's digging and came up with Flyer's third goal.

Down 5-3 and starting the final period Milton Flyers had to have made a soul commitment in the dressing room and came out extra determined not to let this game slip away easily.

Mike Carr had been allowed to walk through the Flyer defencemen to score his goals almost single handedly.

At 12:40 in the third period Paul McCann's lightning reaction scored number four for Flyers after Brian Gordon battled two Cougars along the boards for possession of the disc.

The equalizer was potted with 7:18 remaining in the



MIKE MURRAY



EXCUSE MY STICK. Burlington on's Jim Cochran misplaced his stick on Rod Gooding in front of the Cougar net.

impressive as they fore-checked and made Burlington scramble in their own end. In the final period Burlington staged a comeback and Wayne MacLeod and Rob Rose scored in the first half to bring the game into contention. Pierre Pilote put on an insurance goal with Gooding's help at 7:59. Burlington's goals came when Flyers stopped hitting.

With two minutes remaining Burlington moved within a goal after Hal Montford scored. The final two minutes were tense and dramatic but Flyers held on to even up the series.

After Milton proved to themselves they could easily handle Burlington they had little trouble winning the next two games. They had the heart and desire of a team and looked like a winning hockey club in the last three games.

Flyers will be at home Friday night against Oakville Blades or Dixie Beethives, whoever wins that series being wrapped up this week. At press time Streetsville had two crushing wins over Georgetown and it appears they will be in the league finals.



She's number one in Flyers' fan book

If there is one person who can be called Milton's greatest hockey fan, that person would have to be Mary Coulter. Mrs. Coulter has been warming seats in Milton's arenas since Junior C hockey came here 17 years ago.

It's not that Mrs. Coulter sits on the bench and keeps to herself. No way! She is vocally behind her team, good or bad, and always has something to say to friends, team members and the local press as they pass by her adopted seat in row one.

This past week Mary Coulter has been at four hockey games in Milton Memorial Arena and travelled to Burlington with other Flyer fans Friday night to support the local club. And after such a busy week, what did she have to say during the Saturday night thriller? That she was looking forward to the juvenile tournament here in March.

Beth Gooding said Mary Coulter is a faithful fan this year, as in the past. "We could do with more like Mary, as she is always willing to help," Mrs. Gooding told The Champion.

But Mrs. Coulter is going to miss a few games this week as she goes into Milton District Hospital for two operations.

"I'm going to miss games and that'll kill me," she joked Saturday night.

She talks about her past experiences with the team, never once telling The Champion about her knitting the entire Flyer team toques for the past two years. She does remember the roses the boys on the team sent her last year as she was going to babysit for the Wilson family in Milton.

While she was there, a knock came on the door and Vern Gooding escorted Mary Coulter to the Flyers annual awards banquet as a special guest of the team.

During Saturday's game she talked of Mike Murray who was doing a terrific job on the wing and described him as "a fish out of water". Murray was a defenceman with the Flyers this season but played on the wing as coach Gerry Inglis had Ron Twiss and Brent Murray on defence.

If you ever want to know about the Flyers team just ask their greatest enthusiast, just ask Mary.