



Michael Boyle

A taste of things to come

Jan. 6, 1981—Flyers captain Marty Venner today announced the firing of owner Vern Gooding. The Flyers captain said he was making the decision as a result of a players' meeting which endorsed the owner's dismissal.

"The situation has become unbearable for the players," said Venner. "Something had to be done and we figured getting rid of Vern was a lot easier than bringing in a whole slew of players."

No decision was made with respect to Gooding's wife Beth who, despite keeping a low profile, is heavily involved with the running of the team.

"She does a good job in the hall after the game," added Venner. "and she keeps track of the stats pretty well so we'll keep her. But the owner has got to go."

The situation was brought about by Gooding's threat to replace coach Punch Imlach with Big Daddy Idi Amin who lost his job as the coach of the Ugandan Red Army team two years ago when he had to leave town in a hurry.

Big Daddy, as he's affectionately known to his admirers hasn't coached for over a year. Indications were that he would employ the same type of discipline he used last year in the Milton Industrial League as well as his previous stints with the Ugandan national team—which saw him change bodies frequently, although none of his former players every played again.

"Look, all we're doing is playing hockey for Milton," said Venner. "We don't get paid and we have to uphold the town's honor in the province."

"We've put up with Vern's shenanigans long enough. This isn't the 1970s anymore. We're looking for an owner who remains in the background and just pays the bills so we have something to do every Friday night."

Venner added that few prospective owners have come forward, although he had several names in mind. Among those mentioned were John Paul Getty II, Mayor Anne MacArthur and Iranian leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. The Iranian leader has vowed to take the team on a tour of the States.

Meanwhile, Gooding didn't take the decision very well and immediately went into a conference with former Toronto Maple Leaf president Harold Ballard. Last year, both Ballard and Imlach lost their jobs when Darryl Sittler axed the pair for interfering in his livelihood.

"I really can't imagine why the players decided to let me go," explained Gooding, in tears. "We'd played almost two-thirds of the schedule and we still had the same coach we started out with. I just felt that it was time for a change. Big Daddy had promised nine-a-day workouts."

The team has been playing well lately, boasting a winning record in the practices and a losing record in the games. But added together, Flyers were playing .500 hockey.

"You should see the things that are going on here," said one identified Flyer veteran. "Gooding kept changing the locks to the dressing room so we can't steal the sticks and give them to our girlfriends' little brothers to play road hockey."

"Things are getting pretty bad. I joined the team so I could get my choice of girls at the dances after the games. And now, none of the girls will come near us."

Gooding has since enlisted the support of new national Liberal leader Don Gordon who is a former mayor of Milton.

"Gordon is trying to get Prime Minister Joke Lark to pass legislation for an owners' union," explained Gooding. "He said if Lark doesn't pass the legislation he'll open a publishing house and get the copyright to Maureen McTeer's memoirs."

Meanwhile, Flyers held their first practice in Miami Beach and easily defeated a team of Miami Dolphin cheerleaders in a game of water polo.

Gooding was last seen in the dressing room of the Milton novice rep team, pleading with the players to let him own the team.

Campbellville figure skater Kevin Parker leaves Tuesday to participate in the Central Divisional championships in Sudbury.

Parker finished second in the western sectionals to Windsor skater Kevin Hicks recently. Hicks, 20, is more experienced in senior competition while this is Parker's first run in senior.

Should Parker advance past the divisionals, he'll compete in the Canadian Championships in the middle of January in Kitchener.

Ramblin' Ronnie Twiss, a former Milton Flyer has been named captain of the Richmond Rifles. Twiss, a defenceman, played recently with the Georgetown Raiders before landing a job with the Rangers' farm team about two months back.

Twiss is paired on defence with Marion Fetter. The Rifles are currently tied for the top spot in the Eastern Hockey League.

Two mistakes last week.

1) The car Bob Lee and Alister Aitken drove throughout the year until the final race two weekends ago is a Toyota Corolla and not a Datsun. The car they obtained for the race is a Datsun.

2) Brett Patterson came into the office to dispute the implied fact he had been cut over the nose in an altercation with Blair Phillips after the game against Thornhill two weekends ago.

His face sure didn't look like it had been cut. Several players reported seeing fresh blood on the team bus. Whether it was once in Brett's veins is unclear.

He has said he wasn't fighting with Mark Reynolds near the bus. His dispute was with Blair Phillips only.

Split two games

Aeros set to challenge for top

By Michael Boyle

After struggling for a variety of reasons throughout the year, it can now be safely said that Milton Aeros have finally arrived as a major force to be reckoned with in the Intermediate B hockey league.

Aeros proved the fact last week when they handled former league leaders Dunville Mudcats 5-4 right in Dunville Thursday night. Aeros also played two of their best periods of the year the previous Tuesday against Paris 29ers but bottomed out in the final period and lost 5-4.

The play of the team both nights indicated a much higher standard of play. Despite the absence of almost everyone throughout the year for various lengths of time, the squad was impressive with its teamwork, passing and playing more as a unit than it had against any of the top three teams earlier in the season.

If the squad has shown a fault, it is the players' reluctance to believe in themselves. This was witnessed in both games when Aeros played exceptionally well for the first two periods

Aeros 5 Dunville 4

in each game before falling apart and collapsing in the final frame.

Aeros blew Paris out of the rink early to take a commanding 4-0 lead by the midway point of the game and despite allowing Paris a marker in the middle frame held control of the game. The collapse occurred early in the third period when Paris tied the score before five minutes were played.

The 29ers capped the game with a fluke goal with 10 minutes remaining to steal the win. John Bailas stole the puck behind the Milton goal and attempting to pass the puck in front of the net, had it inadvertently deflect off an Aeros skate into the net behind Brad Evans.

"I said to some of the Milton players," said Paris' cocky coach Vic Porter (always last in the congeniality contests), "if they didn't beat us to-

night, they'd never beat us."

Porter was referring to the fact 29ers played with just 11 skaters. Although Aeros played with a full slate they were also missing Gord Lyons, Ray Evans, Tom Daley, Keith McKinnon, Doug Hearn and Ken Fay.

Aeros almost tied the score with one minute to play but Dave Conte missed a wide open net when 29ers' captain Brian Bellair, a standout on the ice, came out of nowhere to deflect the drive wide.

Aeros' netminder Brad Evans played a strong game except for a brief let-

Paris 5 Aeros-4

down in the third period. But he came up with two fine stops on Larry Ellins and Robbie Wilson in the last four minutes which could have easily scored.

Bill Sherlock led Milton with two goals with singles going to Barry Musselman and Harold Merry.

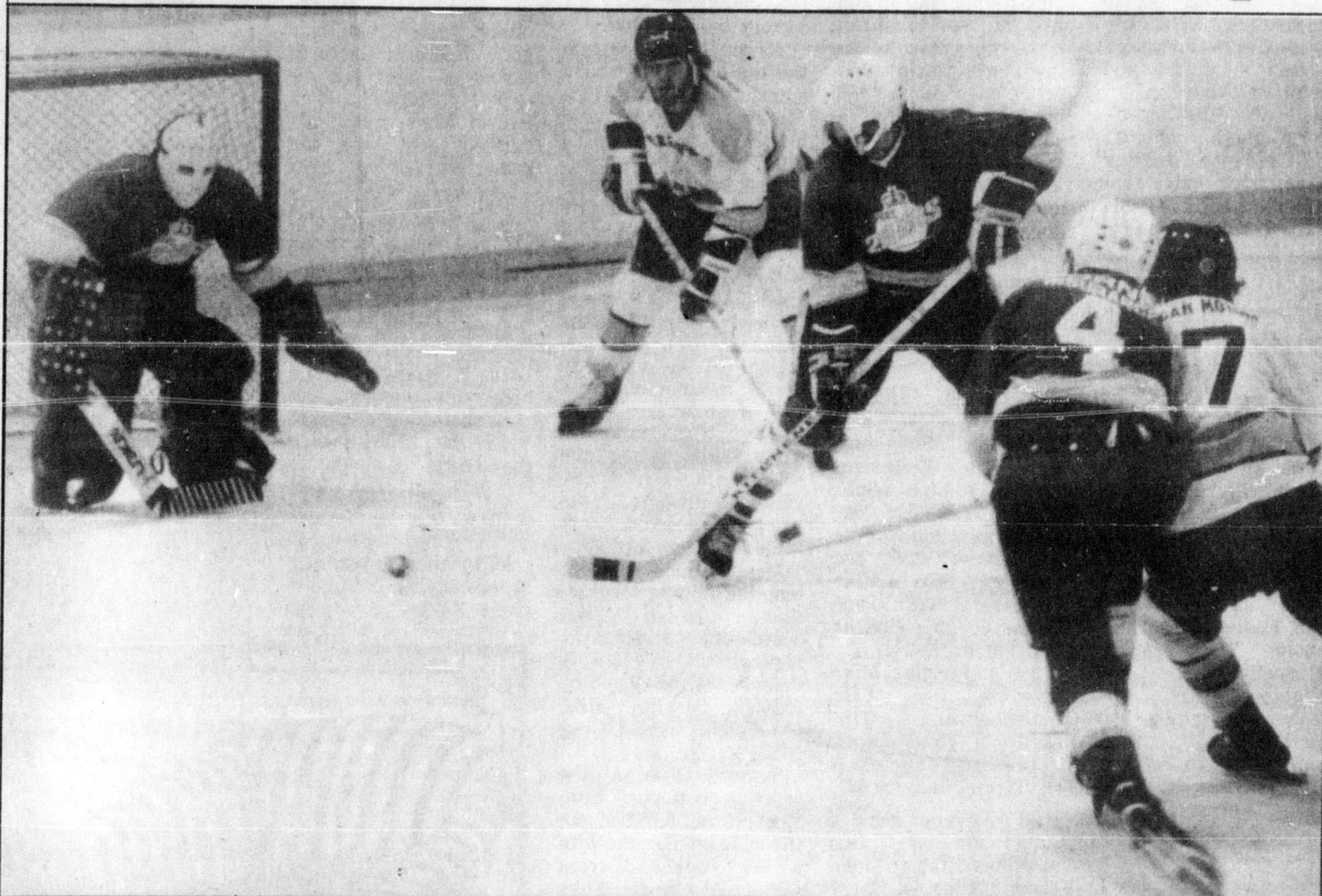
Against Dunville, Aeros fired single unanswered goals in the first and second periods before adding two more to jump into a 4-0 lead early in the third.

Mudcats fought back with one tally before Daley put Milton back ahead by four goals. An Aeros collapse spotted Dunville three quick goals in a two-minute span but Aeros held the fort to preserve the win. It was only Dunville's second loss of the year and brought Milton up to .500 with an 8-8 record.

Merry scored twice to lead the attack with singles to Mitch Lajeunesse, Bill McGilloway and Daley.

Arrows: Doug Hearn showed for practice Wednesday night, except there was no practice. Hearn was asked by Aeros' owner Russ Lane to attend the practice but the squad played Tuesday and Thursday and the practice was cancelled.

Aeros played Plattsville last night and battle Smithville Thursday in Plattsville before resuming their rivalry with Waterdown next Tuesday night at Memorial Arena.



TWO AEROS CHASE a loose puck in front of the Paris goal during action last Tuesday. Bearded Pierre Pilote waits impatiently at the edge of the goal while Jim Cole is being checked by Brian Bellair. Gerry Bradshaw has the best shot at it in front of goalie Stan Worosz. Aeros blew a 4-0 lead and lost 5-4.

Gutsy second effort gives Dick V-ball title

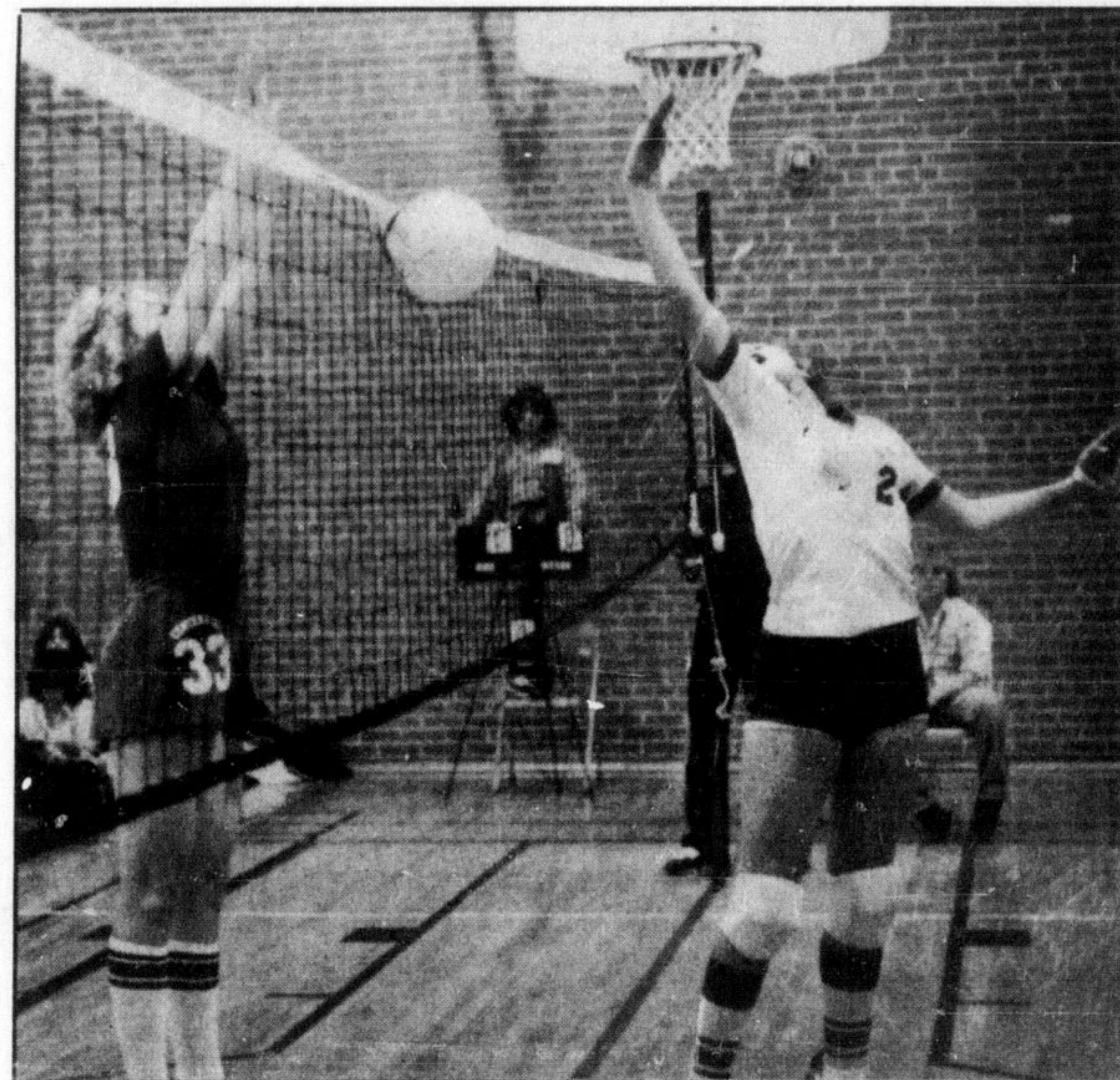
A gutsy second effort allowed the girls' volleyball team of W.I. Dick to capture the North Halton title over a stubborn team from host E.C. Drury School Thursday afternoon.

W.I. Dick downed Drury two games to one in the championship series to take the title. W.I. Dick dropped the first game 15-10 but rebounded to win the second 15-8 and the deciding match 15-13 to advance to the county finals tonight, also at the Drury School at 6 p.m.

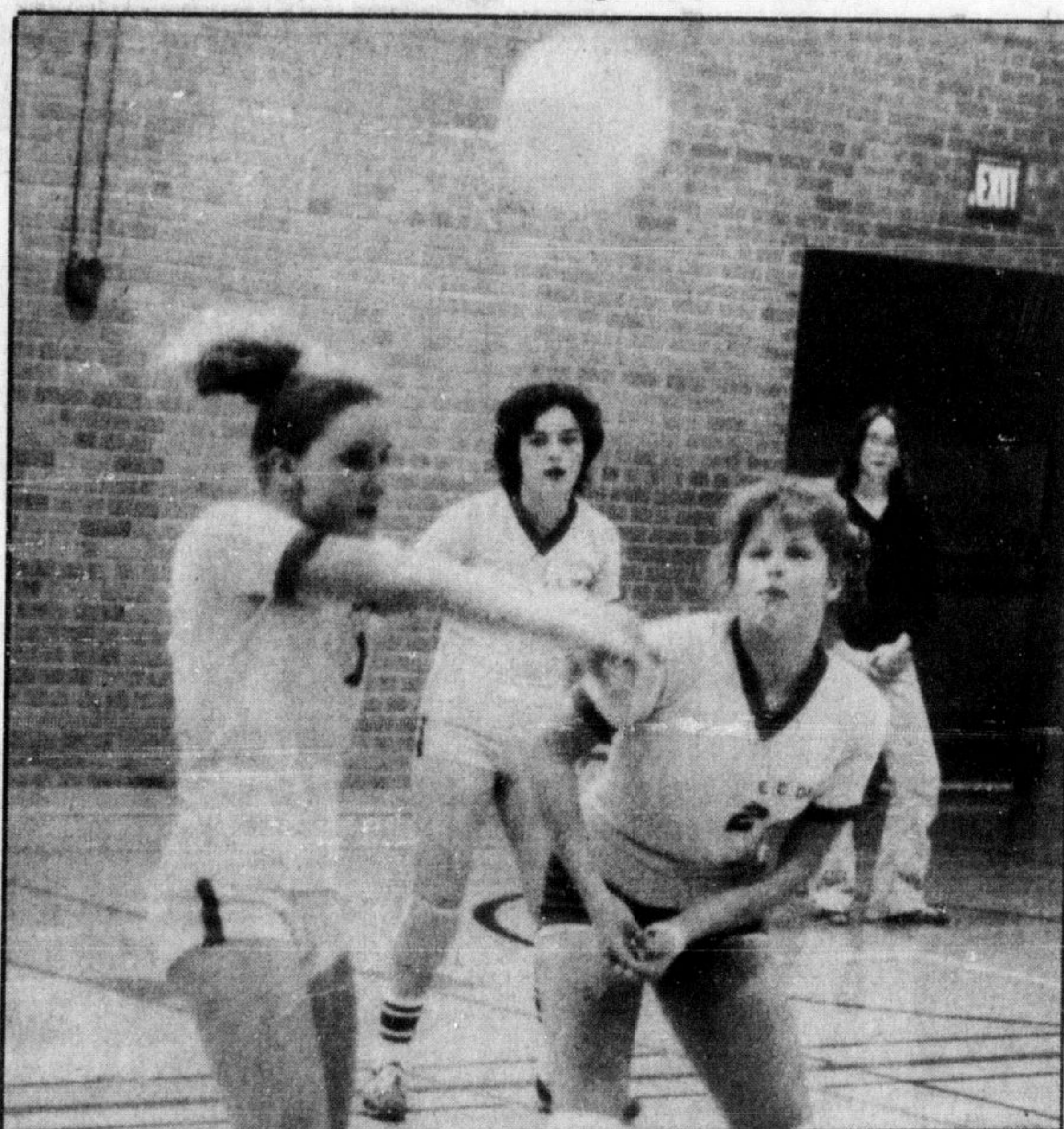
In the final game, Drury jumped to an 8-3 lead before Dick fought back to tie the score at 12 then take the championship 15-13.

It marks the third consecutive year the W.I. Dick girls have advanced to the county championships. They join the boys from Centennial (Georgetown).

W.I. Dick finished the round-robin portion of the event on top with a 9-1 record followed by Drury



REACHING FOR THE BALL is Julie White of Drury School in competition with Centennial School of Georgetown Wednesday. W.I. Dick won the girls' title for North Halton and advances to the county finals tonight at the Drury School.



SETTING UP THE BALL is Julie Martin of E.C. Drury School while Kim White (foreground) and Denise Desroches (background) watch. Drury School finished second at the girls' volleyball competition to W.I. Dick.

Flyers escape cellar with 6-4 victory

Strong performances all-around including the work of a defenceman playing in his first game sparked Milton Flyers to a 6-4 win over Brampton Logan Chevys Friday night at Memorial Arena.

The victory, somewhat tainted by the fact Brampton was minus seven regulars, was Milton's first in the past 13 games and ended the latest dissension on the club.

Flyers played one of their strongest and certainly most consistent games of the year, employing a style of harmony on the ice they hadn't exhibited for several weeks.

The smoothing over of dissension occurred at the squad's practice Wednesday night when all players showed. Earlier in the week, several veterans boycotted a practice over the presence of prospective coach Dave Switzer, who arrived in the absence of vacationing present coach Scott Sones.

The present situation concerning who will coach Flyers as they make their march towards the play-

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offs is still in doubt. Switzer is still around although his input has been limited to practices and he has not been behind the bench for any games.

Flyers' owner, general manager and acting coach Vern Gooding credited the work of Milton juvenile defenceman Greg Finn with sparking the team.

"How about that number 14," said Gooding. "He won us the game with his hitting. When they got that third and fourth goal we put Finn back onto the ice and he immediately gets into a fight. It was the best thing that happened to us."

"The word rookie is a good word in the dressing

room again. When I walked into the dressing room after the game, I asked who we should give the McDonald's tickets to. Somebody said we should give one to the rookie (Finn) and you should have heard the roar."

Brampton was missing seven regulars who were out with a variety of suspensions and injuries, although the juvenile players who replaced them played well.

"It was nice timing for us," added Gooding. "We played a crippled club."

Brampton coach Ken Will said he didn't feel the missing players made a significant impact on the game.

"We had enough chances to win," said Will. "Their goaltender (Mike Shepherd) came up with some really key saves. I felt we had more chances than Milton."

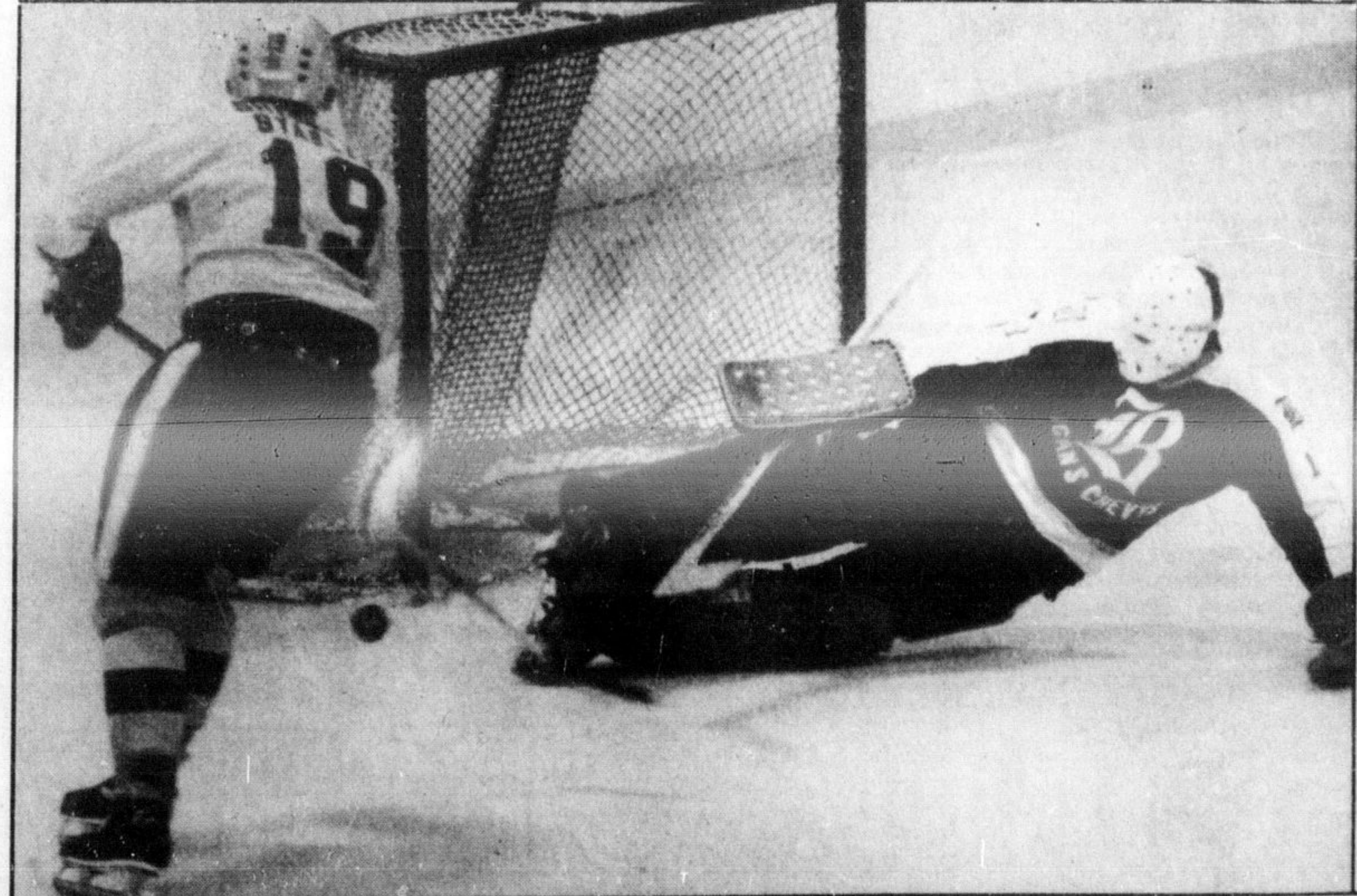
"But Milton played well, there's no doubt about it. They're definitely not a last-place club."

Will's sentiments are echoed in the standings. The win vaulted Flyers past Acton and out of the basement for the first time in November.

Flyers led 3-1 at the end of the second period. Brampton narrowed the gap three minutes into the final period to 3-2 before Marty Venner restored the two-goal margin 30 seconds later.

A brief letdown at the midway point of the game allowed Brampton to knot the score 4-4 but Paul McCann scored the game-winning goal at the 12-minute mark, unleashing a slapshot from just inside the blue line which motored along the ice and between the legs of goaltender Scott Hills.

Eric Ellison clinched the win with an empty-net



A PAD SAVE by Brampton goalie Scott Hills stops Flyers' captain Marty Venner from close in Friday night. Flyers emerged with a 6-4 win to end a 13-game winless string.

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