

Firefighters are No. 1

Thomas nets pair, town team rolls to third consecutive title

In what is becoming somewhat of a tradition, Krantz Fuel Firefighters rolled to their third consecutive championship in the Milton Industrial Hockey League with a 5-1 victory over The Racer's Edge Sunday evening before a packed house at Memorial Arena.

It marked the team's third consecutive title under coach Murray McConnell as the squad embarks on a dynasty. Firefighters won the best-of-five series in four games.

Leftwinger Buddy Thomas supplied all the offence Firefighters needed with a pair

of third-period goals 23 seconds apart which broke open a 1-1 game and sent Firefighters on their way.

"The first two periods was a warm-up for us," explained Thomas. "The legs came to us in the third period. We got those two quick goals and we knew we had it won."

McConnell saw the victory as an example of the team's spirit.

"We played the way we know we can play," said McConnell, aware that many observers felt Firefighters played many games this season just as well as they had

to. "Team spirit had a lot to do with the victory."

The game began with a birthday celebration for Firefighters' defenceman George Prior who hit the 40 mark and was presented with a birthday cake at centre ice prior to the start.

After a scoreless first period, Firefighters scored early in the second. Racer's Edge tied the score 1-1 three minutes into the third period before Thomas' pair of goals put the game away. Firefighters added two more goals later to seal the win and the title.

A rough contest was anticipated but outside of the final few minutes, it didn't materialize. Both teams, however, did play a physical contest.

"We knew it was going to be physical," added Thomas. "We knew they'd try to slow us down by hitting us."

With that in mind, Firefighters came out hitting and promptly took the first two minor penalties. Racer's Edge had several good scoring chances but Firefighters' goalie Phil Bailey held the fort.

Early in the second period, Racer's Edge led a rush into Firefighters' zone but it was broken up. Thomas fed Paul Mountain a pass and he unleashed a slap shot from 25 feet in front of the goal which eluded Racer's goalie Al Horning on his glove side.

Three minutes later, Racer's Richard Murray neatly deked his way past several Firefighters' defenders for a well-earned breakaway but missed the net and ended up on Bailey's lap while the puck rolled harmlessly into the corner.

The first part of the final frame belonged to The Racer's Edge who constantly pressed around the goal and hard-working Mike Ford stationed himself alone in front of Bailey before Murray fed him the puck. Ford wheeled around and scored catching Bailey going the wrong way.

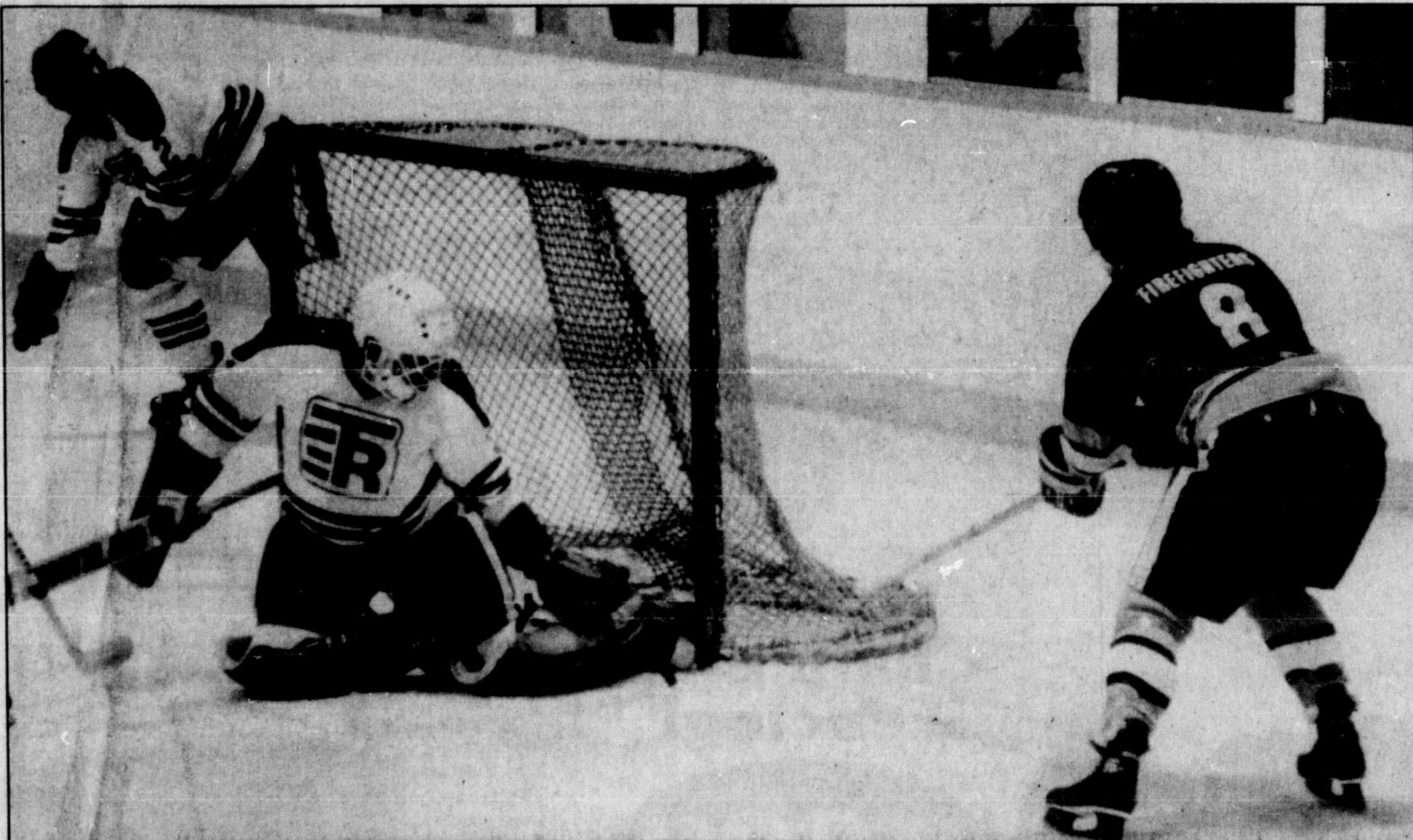
Thomas then took over for a few minutes. On each goal he took the puck from centre ice and skated into the offensive zone, scoring first with a wrist shot and then with a slapper.

One minute later, Dave Arbic backhanded a shot through a maze of legs into the goal and Firefighters had their third title in the bag.

A rash of penalties and two melees later in the game left a sour taste for the last hockey game of the season.



Three in a row: Firefighters' captain Al Jones carries the trophy around Memorial Arena after his squad downed The Racer's Edge 5-1 to take the Milton Industrial League title. Firefighters won the series three games to one.



Nets two: Firefighters' leftwinger Buddy Thomas gets stopped here by goalie Al Horning, but scored two big goals 23 seconds apart in the third period

which gave Firefighters a 3-1 lead and turned the close game around. An expected rough game didn't materialize until the score late in the contest.

Midget girls' team short players

Nancy Auger is looking for girls who were born in 1963 or 1964.

Despite a record registration this year in Milton's girls' softball, the midget rep. team has received just eight registrations so far. Unless six more players can be found soon, the team may have to fold.

"We're not looking for superstars," said Mrs. Auger. "It just gives the girls something to do. We've got the sponsors and the sweaters. We just need the players."

Girls interested in playing are asked to call Don Watson, the team's coach, at 878-4376 soon.

Registration this year already numbers 255, which is up 20 from last season. The house league will be expanded in the Junior and Intermediate divisions.

Two more Junior teams, for girls born in 1971 or later were needed and spaces for about 10 more players are available.

The Intermediate division will be expanded from four to five teams with room for about six more players. That age is for girls either 10 or 11 years of age.

Any girls interested in playing house league who have not register can call Nancy at 878-3191.

The Senior division for older girls will stay at four teams.

Unfortunately for the midget rep. team, most of the increase in registration has taken place in the younger age groups. Should the midgets field a team, 19 squads will be listed with girls' softball a sharp rise since the league started seven years ago with just four teams.

There'll be four rep. teams with squads in Squirt (born 1969 and later), Peeewe (1967-

68), Bantam (1965-66) and Midget hopefully (1963-64).

The league has plenty of coaching assistants, could use a few more coaches and is in desperate need for umpires. The umpires are all volunteer and anyone who could help out is urged to do so.

Ken Johnson is the new president replacing Nancy Auger who becomes the past president and vice-president. Mary Blair returns to the post of secretary-treasurer while husband Ed Blair is the equipment manager.

Umpires clinic Sunday

The Halton Rural Softball League will be conducting a free umpiring clinic all day Sunday, beginning at 9 a.m. at McKenzie-Smith Public School in Acton.

The league is trying to encourage more and better umpires—hence the free clinic.

Anyone interested is encouraged to attend. You are asked to bring running shoes.

In two and a half weeks, the league will once again hold its useful coaching clinic which features on-field teaching. There is a \$3 charge for the clinic, May 4.



First Practice: Newcomer Rod Burrell from the disbanded Brampton Athletics gets in a little bunting practice at Milton Merchants' first practice of the year Sunday afternoon at Milton District High School.



Pitcher Picture: Campbellville Mohawks' hurler Scott Gadd is somewhere behind the beard and sunglasses as Mohawks opened spring training last weekend at Campbellville ball park.

Geniole wins home gold

Two first-place showings on the vault and the bars propelled Milton Springer Andrea Geniole to the top spot in the 10-11 years group at a pre-competitive gymnastics meet at West Scarborough Saturday.

Eight-year-old Miss Geniole added a second with her floor routine and a third on the beam to claim the gold medal although she was competing in a group above her age.

Altogether, Springers sent 12 young gymnasts to the meet who competed in three age groups.

Joanne Keyworth took home a first-place ribbon for her performance on the vault. Coupled with a sixth on the floor, she finished fourth all-around with a combined score of 30.4 in the 6-7 years category.

The two top Springers in the 8-9 years group were competing in an age group above their ages.

Jennifer Dobson placed third overall while Melanie Wood was fifth. Miss Dobson was second on the beam and third on both the bars and floor. Miss Wood put on a strong performance on the bars to claim the top spot and was also sixth on the floor and beam.

In the same group, Heather Ormsby was fourth on the floor and sixth on the bars.

Other top showings in the 10-11 years group alongside those of Andrea Geniole were Adrienne Solda who was sixth on the floor, competing one age group above hers. Lynn Herrmann was seventh on vault and Lilyanne Lirette was eighth on the floor.

Pineview soccer club to operate atom and squirt house league

The Pineview Soccer Club will operate its own house league this year for boys' teams in the squirt and atom divisions.

Registration for the boys' part of the league was increased dramatically—from 72 last year to 112 this year—with registrations still continuing.

The boost in numbers comes somewhat as a surprise because of the refusal of the Milton Youth Soccer Club to re-admit the teams this year under a different format.

Pineview also has one team registered in both mosquito and peeewe. The club has been negotiating with Georgetown for its two teams to play in their league. A decision is expected Sunday.

The increase in numbers and people who have offered assistance has both surprised and pleased Pineview president Martin Boettcher.

"What pleases me most is the enthusiasm of the parents," said Boettcher. "They all

stepped forward to help.

"We're very pleased with the squirts and the atoms. They'll have no problems with playing time. It's better for them because they'll need the time to learn soccer at that age group."

Boettcher said he felt the small registration fee, just \$13 compared with \$22 for Milton and \$30 for Georgetown, was enough incentive to keep the players in Pineview.

Should Georgetown not accept the two older teams, they'll be combined into a four-team house league which may involve several exhibition games.

The number of girls has remained about the same. There will be two intermediate teams plus single teams in junior, squirt and senior totalling about 60 members.

Practices have started in the gym of Pineview School on Saturdays. For more information on registration contact Martin Boettcher at 878-7013.

Bobcats drop Derbys

Chris Walsh's third goal of the game in double overtime allowed Belleville Bobcats a 4-3 victory and knocked Streetsville Derbys out of the OHA Jr. B semi-final playoffs—perhaps for the last time.

Walsh supplied all the heroics from the Belleville side, scoring the game's tying goal with 2:35 remaining in the contest, the go-ahead goal in straight-time overtime and the winning goal which was his 50th of the year.

Belleville finally captured the series after winning the opening three games before dropping the fourth, fifth and sixth contests to a rejuvenated Streetsville.

If it weren't for the work of Streetsville

catcher Mike Sands, who stopped three breakaways in the second period, the score could have been lopsided in Belleville's favor. Bobcats now meet Windsor for the OHA Jr. B title.

Ironically, it may be the last year for Streetsville in Jr. B hockey. Several teams have been trying to organize a Tier Two Jr. A league in the same vein as the Provincial Jr. A League and Streetsville has been mentioned as a possible entry.

Other teams reportedly interested included Orillia from the Central Ontario Jr. B League, Buffalo Jr. Sabres, St. Catharines, Hamilton and Guelph.

The OHA will decide early next week on the fate of the new league.

Rainy weather hurts first baseball practices

April showers didn't deter too many players from showing up to the first practices of the year last weekend for Milton Merchants and Campbellville Mohawks baseball teams.

Good turnouts for both clubs were reported as the teams size up their players for the coming season of play in the Halton County Baseball League.

About two dozen Merchants players including club owner Dieter Claer went through a makeshift practice on the field of Milton District High School. The poor weather prevented the team from using the baseball diamond of Brian Best Park.

Two players from the disbanded Brampton Athletics put in appearances. They are infielder Rod Burrell and catcher Jack Cantelon while shortstop Rick Binsell indicated he would attend but cancelled out because of illness.

Unfortunately, Merchants' biggest hole which was on the mound, may not be af-

fectured by new players from Brampton. Only one, Mike Copp, has shown an interest and will take a wait-and-see attitude before committing himself to Merchants.

Players from last year who have indicated they won't return include Rich Clement who moved back to Mohawks and catcher Doc McCutcheon who has retired.

There are three young catchers in camp, which will permit coach Wayne Marchand the luxury of using Ange Tonelli elsewhere in the field where his talents could be better served.

The team will continue practices both days this weekend at 1 p.m. at Brian Best.

Meanwhile over in Campbellville, Mohawks' first look at players has shown potential weaknesses in the catching and pitching positions.

Catcher Tim Roberts, who played the majority of games last year, may be lost to the team for the entire year. An operation

involving a bone graft probably will sideline the backstopper.

On the mound, Scott Gadd and Dan Thomson will return. The team is unsure whether Charlie "Ace" Currie will attend school in Toronto or play with the team. Mohawks cannot afford to go the season with two pitchers and is on the lookout for others.

Should Mohawks be unable to find a catcher, it may mean shortstop and coach Rick Mitchell will go behind the plate, at least temporarily, which would open up a spot in the infield.

Several players from Georgetown showed up to the team's first practice last weekend and Mitchell's early impressions are favorable, although it's still early to tell.

Mohawks will continue with practices each Saturday and Sunday at 1 p.m. at Campbellville ball park until daylight time allows for night practices.