

Steelers grab title with overtime win

Any ideas that girls' hockey was of the powder-puff variety were quickly dispelled last Monday and Tuesday at Memorial Arena as 15 teams in two divisions battled their way to the bitter finish in the first annual Milton Girls' Hockey Tournament.

Playing before a sparse spectator gathering, the girls showed without any doubt they were as competitive as boys when it comes to hockey.

That particular view is shared by Carol Morrison, coach of Milton's junior girls Steelers for the past two years, who goes one step further.

"Not only are girls more competitive," she says, "they're more aggressive. Once the girls start to lose, they dig in and try harder. Winning becomes most important."

Carol's team proved her coach right

when it battled back with a late third-period goal and eventually won in overtime to capture the consolation championship of the pee-wee division in an emotional, spirited final.

After the team lost its initial tournament contest by a 5-0 margin to a powerful Brampton team, Milton edged a combined Oakville all-star team 1-0 in overtime before winning the championship over Brantford. Brantford and Milton played to a 1-1 tie including overtime, but Milton was awarded the championship when the shots-on-goal criteria was used to determine a winner.

It was a gutsy total-team effort which earned Steelers the crown. Brantford went ahead 1-0 very early in the game on a goal which resulted from a goalmouth scramble. The puck bounced to an uncovered Brantford forward and she calmly

redirected the puck into the open net. Steeler goalie Myrna Newman, who was outstanding throughout the game, had no chance on the play.

Both teams went on the attack with Brantford holding a slight edge in play. Newman kept her squad in the game with some spectacular saves and was helped once when a shot appeared to beat her for a goal but struck the post and bounced harmlessly away.

The third period belonged to Steelers who had numerous scoring opportunities. However, they were held off the board until captain Kim Hamilton, another standout for Steelers, picked up a loose puck at her own blue line. She skated the length of the ice and put a perfect deke on the Brantford goalie, sliding the puck into the vacated net with six minutes left in regulation time.



Tears of joy: Milton junior girls' captain Kim Hamilton cries tears of happiness after the team won the consolation championship at the Milton Invitational Girls' Hockey tournament last week at Memorial Arena. Coach Carol Morrison looks on during the presentation after her club had defeated Brantford.



Here they are; Milton won the pee wee division consolation title with a solid team effort over Brantford. Spectacular goalkeeping from Myrna Newman coupled with strong offence by Kim Hamilton and a solid team effort allowed Milton to capture the title in overtime. Fifteen teams in two divisions participated in the Milton tourney, the first of what is intended to be an annual event.

With an eight-minute overtime looming, the teams resumed the end-to-end play which characterized the entire match. Brantford nearly stole the victory with 20 seconds left when a good pass put a forward into the clear. However, steady Myrna Newman made the play of the game with an excellent NHL-style stop and allowed her team to advance into overtime.

With shots-on-goals counting as the determining factor if no goals were scored, both teams concentrated on shooting at the net. Excellent defensive work by both teams allowed only one shot on goal and fortunately for Milton, Hamilton fired the shot to give Milton the victory.

After the announcement which gave Milton the title, players jumped over the boards and a happy, tearful Morrison went around the ice hugging her players in an emotional outburst.

"They really made me proud of them," she said. "They gave it everything they had. They've been revved up all day. They came through this morning (beating Oakville) when it was do-or-die and they didn't stop all day. I love it."

Steelers dropped the opener to Brampton, Monday although the score wasn't entirely indicative of the play. The game was scoreless for the first half of the game before the roof caved in for Milton.

However, Steelers regrouped in the first game of the consolation round against the combined Oakville side. Both teams played scoreless hockey for all of regulation and almost all of the eight-minute overtime.

With time running out, Hamilton gathered the puck behind the Oakville net

and slid a pass to Jennifer Domenico who made no mistake and fired it home to give Milton the win.

Again, Milton goalie Newman was strong stopping 22 shots for the shutout.

Mississauga claimed the pee-wee division over Orangeville. In the bantam division, Mississauga Park Royal dumped Mississauga United Lands 5-1 to take the championship while Burlington won the consolation championship with a 5-0 whitewash of Saltfleet.

The tournament has awarded trophies for players with the most scoring points in each division, the top forward, goaltender and defenceman.

In the pee-wee division, Orangeville's Tammy Osborne scored the most points, Milton's Kim Hamilton was named the top forward, Nancy Surette of Orangeville was the top goaltender and Mississauga's Cindy Wilson was the top defenceman.

For bantam, Mississauga Park Royal players took three of the four honors. Denise Cummings scored the most points, Gizele Gallant was the top goalie and Denise Larkin was the best defender. Saltfleet's Bev Lawrence was the only player to break through the Park Royal domination and was named the top forward.

Milton Currie Plumbers intermediate girls advanced on the championship in bantam side after winning the first game. An experienced Mississauga Park Royal dashed Milton's hopes with a 5-1 win in the consolation side.

Plumbers outlasted Thornhill 3-1 in the opener to advance to the semi-final. "It was a total-team effort, no ifs, ands or butts," said Milton coach Gord Hasselfeldt.

The game went 28 minutes before either team was able to get on the scoreboard. Tracy Horne notched the first goal with Thornhill coming back moments later with the equalizer.

Then Joanne Auger chose a most opportune time to score her first goal of the year to put Plumbers into a lead they didn't relinquish. Horne finished off the scoring with an insurance goal with two minutes left in the game.

Against Park Royal, Milton's inexperience proved to be their major downfall as Mississauga's 12-year girls hockey program seemed to have an edge on the rest of the teams. This was best shown in that both Mississauga squads met in the championship final.

"We're catching up on lost time," remarked Hasselfeldt, "although Mississauga has got 10 years on us. They (Park Royal) had five good hockey players and I couldn't beat them. We played as well as we could."

Hasselfeldt singled out the work of Debbie Allen, Kathy Harris, goalie Barb Edwards and Horne who scored the lone goal against Park Royal as being particularly effective, adding that he felt his entire team performed well.

As a result of its play in the tournament, Milton intermediates have been invited to participate in a tourney in Thornhill. The squad also will play in a tournament in Orangeville plus one of either Mississauga or Brantford.

Newmarket was slated to play in the pee-wee group but a misunderstanding concerning the team's acceptance to the tournament led to the squad not participating.

Nadalin handles MCD 9-3

Nadalin Electric fired six consecutive goals and then coasted the rest of the way to hand Milton Chrysler-Dodge a 9-3 setback in Milton Industrial Hockey League action Sunday night at Milton Sports Centre.

The loss brought to a rather abrupt end the two-game shutout string Chrysler-Dodge had accumulated. Nadalin scored four goals in each of the first and third periods which sandwiched a solo marker in the second frame. Chrysler-Dodge couldn't get its offensive machinery to dent the scoreboard until the first period.

In other games, Racer's Edge handled Krantz Fuel Firefighters 4-1 while Straight Line Fence needed two goals in the final four minutes of the game to grab a 4-2 victory from Halton Hogs.

Nadalin Flyers scored twice in the first minute of the game on their way to the win.

Keith Bridgman and Louie D'Arazio led the offence with three goals apiece while singles went to Tony Beekman, Terry Nova and Rick Bridgman who added three assists.

Peter Rota, Marty Farrell and Pierre Pilote scored for Chrysler-Dodge.

Roger Wildfong and John Volpe scored within an eight-second span late in the third period to allow Straight Line the narrow win over the luckless Hogs.

Hogs had taken a 1-0 lead in the opening period when Brian Farrell scored his first of two goals for the night with less than two minutes remaining.

Roger Delnin and Chuck Alcock scored to put Straight Line in the lead before Farrell's second goal with a minute to play in the second period evened the score setting the stage for the final dramatics to propel Straight Line to the win.

Racer's Edge rode a pair of first-period goals to the win over the slumping Firefighters.

Milton claims two consolation titles in seventh annual Beaver tournament

One of the most successful and competitive Milton Beaver Hockey tournaments concluded last night (Tuesday) at Milton Memorial Arena with winners in each of the championship and consolation round declared.

Teams came from many parts of Ontario and the United States to compete in one of the few tournaments available to minor teams in the province.

More than 150 teams either sent forms to compete or inquired about the tournament making it one of the largest of its kind in Ontario.

As of Monday night (results of Tuesday's games were too late for today's paper) the three middle divisions were completed with Milton teams taking two of the consolation championships.

In preliminary games in the minor midget and novice divisions Monday, Milton lost making it impossible for any team from this area to take an overall championship.

However, Banvil minor bantams and Docs & Dents minor atoms shook off opening defeats to win their next two games for the consolation titles in their respective divisions. Optimists minor peewees were the sole Milton team to win its first game and advance on the championship side but were defeated in the semi-finals and ousted from the tournament.

In the minor atom division, Toronto Marlies, perhaps the top team of any division, powered past all its opposition to win the overall championship. Marlies claimed the title with a 9-0 thrashing of Thornhill after reaching the finals with victories of 4-1 over Markham and 5-1 over North Bay.

Milton Docs & Dents lost the opener 7-4 to Etobico Reps in a game which contained a questionable penalty call but won the consolation side by beating Preston 8-2 and then edging North Bay 3-2 in the final game.

In its opening game, Milton built a 4-2 lead midway through the second period. Medics' Mark French was handed a questionable high-sticking penalty and was lost to the team for the rest of the game as well as being assessed a full two-minute minor.

Etobico jumped on the power-play opportunity to score a pair of goals in a nine-second span to tie the score before salting it away with three unanswered tallies in the final period. The loss of French's two-way skating was a definite factor in the loss for Milton.

Medics had carefully constructed the 4-2 lead with two goals in the first five minutes of the game. Shawn Healey and Robby Mifsud fired the goals before Etobico roared back with two quick goals in the final

minute, 11 seconds apart, to even the score.

Healey restored Milton's two-goal lead with a pair of goals early in the middle frame. One minute later, French picked up his penalty and it seemed to take the win out of the Medics' sails.

Milton goalies Mark Harrison and Chris Newell combined to stop 37 shots while Medics took 30 drives on the Etobico net.

However, Milton bounced back in the second game

with a comfortable win over Preston. Medics dominated the contest from the outset out-shooting Preston by a 30-12 margin.

Healey led the offence with three goals while singles went to Jason Blanchard, Jeff Maher, Andrew Snell, Mifsud and French.

In the final game, French scored five minutes into the final period, putting home a rebound off a Healey shot for what proved to be the winner.



Flip shot: A Banvil shooter moves in alone and flips the puck into the net past the London Minors goalie during second-round action of the consolation side in the Beaver tournament over the weekend. Milton claimed the conso title as did Docs & Dents minor atoms.

North Bay closed to within one four minutes later but excellent defensive work led by Kevin Moffatt, Scott McLeod, Todd McLeod and Blanchard prevented North Bay from evening the score the rest of the way.

Excellent goalkeeping by Harrison and Newell contributed to the cause as Milton was out-shot 17-15. Healey took 11 of Milton's shots and won the MVP award.

In minor bantam, Banvil bounced back with a 2-0 loss to Stoney Creek in the opening round to take the next two games and the consolation title.

Stoney Creek outskated and out-played Milton in the first two periods and then held on by going into a defensive shell in the final frame to earn the win. Banvil out-shot Stoney Creek 12-1 in the third period but couldn't find a way to score.

On the consolation side, Banvil put its act together and thrashed London Minors 7-0 before beating Preston 8-4 for the title in a game which was closer than the score indicates.

Against London, Banvil dominated the game scoring a single goal in the first period and added three more in each of the final two periods to clinch the win.

Pollen led the scoring with a pair of goals while Terry Boudreau, Mike Mangotich, Glen Houston, Paul Rowan and Marshall Cram added singles. Sean Carnegie earned the shutout behind the pipes.

Tracy Harding shone in the final game picking up two goals and two assists to spearhead the Milton attack.

Milton led 1-0 after the first period before Preston bounced back to tie the score 2-2 in the middle frame. Banvil jumped ahead 5-2 in the third, allowing Preston to close within one at 5-4 before salting it away with three straight goals near the end of the period.

Perri Hood chipped in with a pair of goals while singles went to Chris Austin, Houston, Ron Lassaline and Pollen.

In the minor peewee division, Milton Optimists won the first game in overtime and then had the misfortune of playing the eventual champion Simcoe and lost 2-0.

Optimists took the opener when a scoreless overtime after a 1-1 tie with Preston failed to produce a clear winner and shots-on-goal were needed to determine a winner. Milton out-shot Preston 5-3 to advance against Simcoe which eventually defeated G Huron East 4-2 for the championship.

A wrap-up of the remaining game and divisions along with individual award winners will appear in next week's Champion.