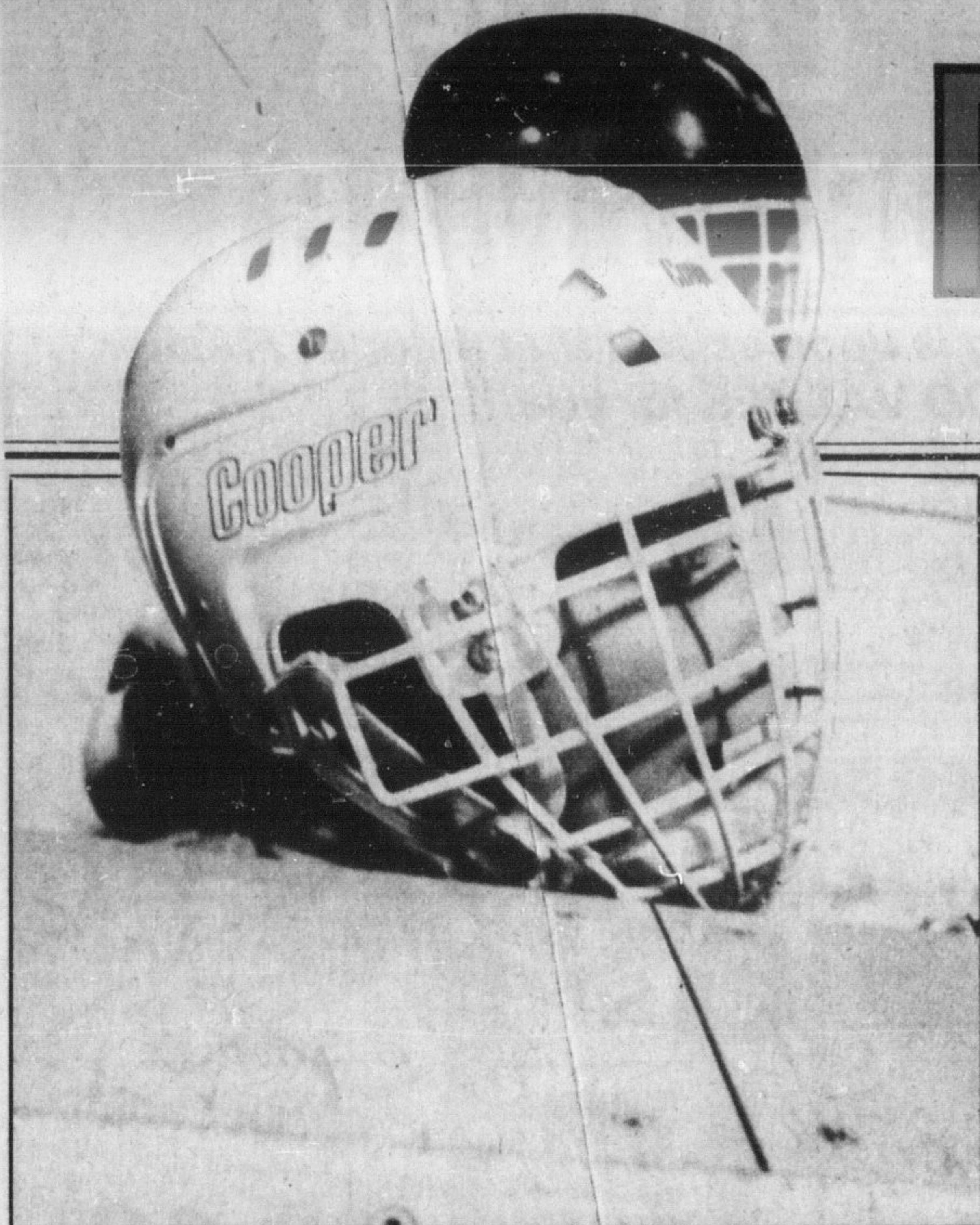


Champion Perspective

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION
MILTON, ONTARIO
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 1981
THIRD SECTION



The wait: The wire-cage facemasks, introduced on a province-wide basis about five years ago, have saved many players from serious eye injuries. Here, one player waits for his turn on the ice. All players share ice time equally.

Minor hockey

Championship day is approaching for all levels

For players in house league, there isn't the glamor or publicity of rep or select teams. They play the game because they enjoy it with much less emphasis on winning and much more on recreation.

They get up early to get to the arena accompanied by their family and go out and play the game for fun. All players receive equal ice time.

House league has now begun playoff action which will culminate with the championship day for all divisions Sunday, April 5 at Memorial Arena.

A majority of the 800 players in the Milton Minor Hockey Association are registered in house league. There are 37 teams in house league compared with 10 for rep, five for select and two in girls' hockey.

House league is where players first become acquainted and learn skills in hockey.

With the first day of spring arriving Friday, it signals the closing of hockey season around the corner.

The teams will play through two more weeks of playoffs before Awards Day Sunday, April 5 from noon to 8 p.m. The day is a showcase for all players in MMHA. Featured are the finals in the five house

league divisions as well as the exhibitions by Milton's two successful girls' teams.

Milton Memorial Arena is packed all day with players and parents watching hockey's last hurrah in town.

In addition, awards for the most improved player for rep, select and rep team house league teams will be presented.

It's a big day for players and all concerned.

The schedule for the day is as follows:

Atom championship, noon; senior 1.15 p.m.; junior girls exhibition 2.30 p.m.; intermediate girls exhibition, 3.30 p.m.; novice 4.30 p.m.; peewee 5.30 p.m. and bantam 6.45 p.m.



Cheering Mom: The players receive much in the way of vocal support while they're on the ice. Rita Marsh gets caught up in the excitement. At the house league level, support is more often heard than criticism. Many mothers of hockey players might look into joining the "Minor Hockey Moms", an organization which promotes and reduces the cost of hockey to each player. The organization has lost many members and is in danger of folding.



Advice: Two players receive some advice from their coach while the game is in progress. Sometimes, the kids don't see their mistakes until after the play.



Collision: The novice-aged players (eight years and younger) are the most fun to watch. Skill is something they learn as they go along. Sometimes, standing up for an entire shift without falling over is a feat. These two players are still working on it.



Helping hand: The goalie receives something in the way of help from one of his defencemen. Goalies at the young age group aren't very agile. More often than not, they play as if they were playing street hockey.

Photos by Dave Siddaway and Michael Boyle

Minor hockey Moms vital to league but future in doubt

One very important but often forgotten contributor to minor hockey is the work of the Minor Hockey Moms.

The organization performs numerous tasks to facilitate the operation of hockey in Milton and, just as important, substantially reduces the cost of hockey for everyone concerned about the league.

The time and energy Minor Hockey Moms put into the game, raising funds, organizing exchanges, providing special dinners, etc. seldom is noticed until it's not there.

And that might just happen in the 1981-82 season.

The 15-member organization pushed itself to the limit for this season. It was hoped more mothers from the more than 700 players registered with the Milton Minor Hockey Association would offer support, but that didn't work out.

The Minor Hockey Moms help everyone associated with the game. Registration fees are kept in line much to the credit of the Moms. Without the Moms, fees could rise as much as two times over and all would lose.

The organization will hold a pot-luck dinner at the home of president Judy Dillon Tuesday, April 21. If support is not forthcoming, we might just see the end of the organization. Judy's address is 536 Nelson Court in Milton. Her number is 878-0179. It wouldn't hurt to give her a call and see what you can offer.

The Moms were busy again in 1980-81. They operate the gate for rep and select games, operate a Christmas bazaar, a skate exchange with rather inexpensive but good equipment for sale, and provide the coaches and managers with a thank-you dinner among other items.

The Moms supply all trophies for house league awards day and crests for all players registered with MMHA, provide a free hot dog, bag of chips and a drink for all players, purchase banners and pennants and provide stockings full of goodies for beginners, among other things.

In short, the Moms are a necessary vital line to minor hockey. Cut it off and all will feel the pinch. Don't be bashful. They're a great group.



All set: Fathers have a very important part to play in their son's recreation. Some help the team in a variety of ways. Bill Mele adjusts the skates of his son Scott after a house league game.



Watch here: A coach gives some directions to one of the players before he goes out on the ice. Explaining on-ice positioning is just one of the responsibilities of a house league coach. Milton Minor Hockey is now in the middle of playoffs, setting up for the grand championship day when all teams will play for their division titles Sunday April 5.