

Racer's Edge, Burns meet for MIHL crown for third straight year

By MIKE BOYLE
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For the third year in a row, it'll be the same two teams going for the championship of the Milton Industrial Hockey League.

And for the second year in a row, Lou's Place Hawks will be watching from the sidelines having taken the league's first-place finisher to the limit in the semi-final.

The Racer's Edge joined John Burns Stable in the final series by holding back a determined challenge from Hawks with a 7-3 victory Sunday at Milton Sports Centre to capture the best-of-three semi-final series two games to one.

For Lou's Place, it was another case of coming up just short in a deciding game. Last year, the club (then Nadalin Flyers) forced Firefighters (now John Burns Stable) to four games before being edged out in the final game of the semi-final.

In the end, superior playmaking and better puck control by The Racer's Edge carried the club to the win. The Edge almost blew Lou's Place out of the rink in the first 15-minute period with four goals including three in a two-minute span late in the period.

The Edge upped the lead to 5-0 with a goal late in the second period and appeared to have the game well in hand. However, encouraged by the noisiest group of supporters this side of Iranian leader Ayatollah Khomeini, Hawks exploded out of the starting gate in the third period. Lou's Place scored three quick power-play goals before the period was four minutes old and threatened to close the gap further as The Edge consistently ran into defensive problems caused by several factors, the least of which wasn't that at one time three Racer's defencemen were in the penalty box at once.

The Edge got a chance of their own on

the power play and converted the opportunity for a 6-3 lead. Cautious defensive strategy which stalled any attack Lou's Place attempted enabled The Edge to carry the lead the rest of the way.

Richard Murray opened the scoring three minutes into the game for The Edge jamming home a drive with Tom Chuchmach and Bob McKee picking up assists.

The play was fairly even for the next 10 minutes although Hawk goalie Hap Perrott was tested more severely than Al Horney at the other end.

Then in a span of two minutes and one second, The Edge dominated the play and pumped home three goals for what appeared to be a commanding lead. Larry Scott, Richard Murray and Eric Ellison (who had a four-point night) scored with assists going to Brent Murray, Al Fritzeley, Wilson, Ellison and Chuchmach.

The Edge was held to a single goal in the middle frame which was a credit to Hawks' penalty-killing corps which restricted The Edge to just one power-play goal of five chances. Ron Rowlin, who replaced Perrott in goal, came up with some strong saves.

Defenceman Brent Murray fired the goal on an unassisted effort.

Lou's Place came out for the third period full of fire and within a minute had broken Horney's shutout bid. Defenceman Gord Adams notched the goal resulting from a bullet from the right point.

The penalties began to even up with The Edge being assessed four straight minors in a four-minute span. Hawks capitalized on the opportunity with four of The Edge's better players two men short for almost all four minutes.

Lou D'Arzio unleashed a slapshot from the face-off circle to narrow the gap to 5-2 at 16:36 and just 26 seconds later Adams notched his second of the

game from a scramble. Guy McGinnis assisted on Adams' goal.

The tide turned when The Edge got back to full strength and Hawks were assessed a penalty. Wilson completed a nice three-way passing play with Ellison and Murray at the 12:26. The goal took the starch out of the Lou's Place attack and The Edge, in better condition, carried the play the rest of the way.

Wilson added an insurance goal with two minutes left driving home a pass in the slot from Ellison from the corner. Brent Murray also assisted.

Notes: The Racer's Edge—John Burns Stable match-up will be the third in a row between these two teams for the championship. Each team has won once.

The first game goes Sunday at 7 p.m. at Milton Sports Centre with all succeeding games played at Memorial Arena.

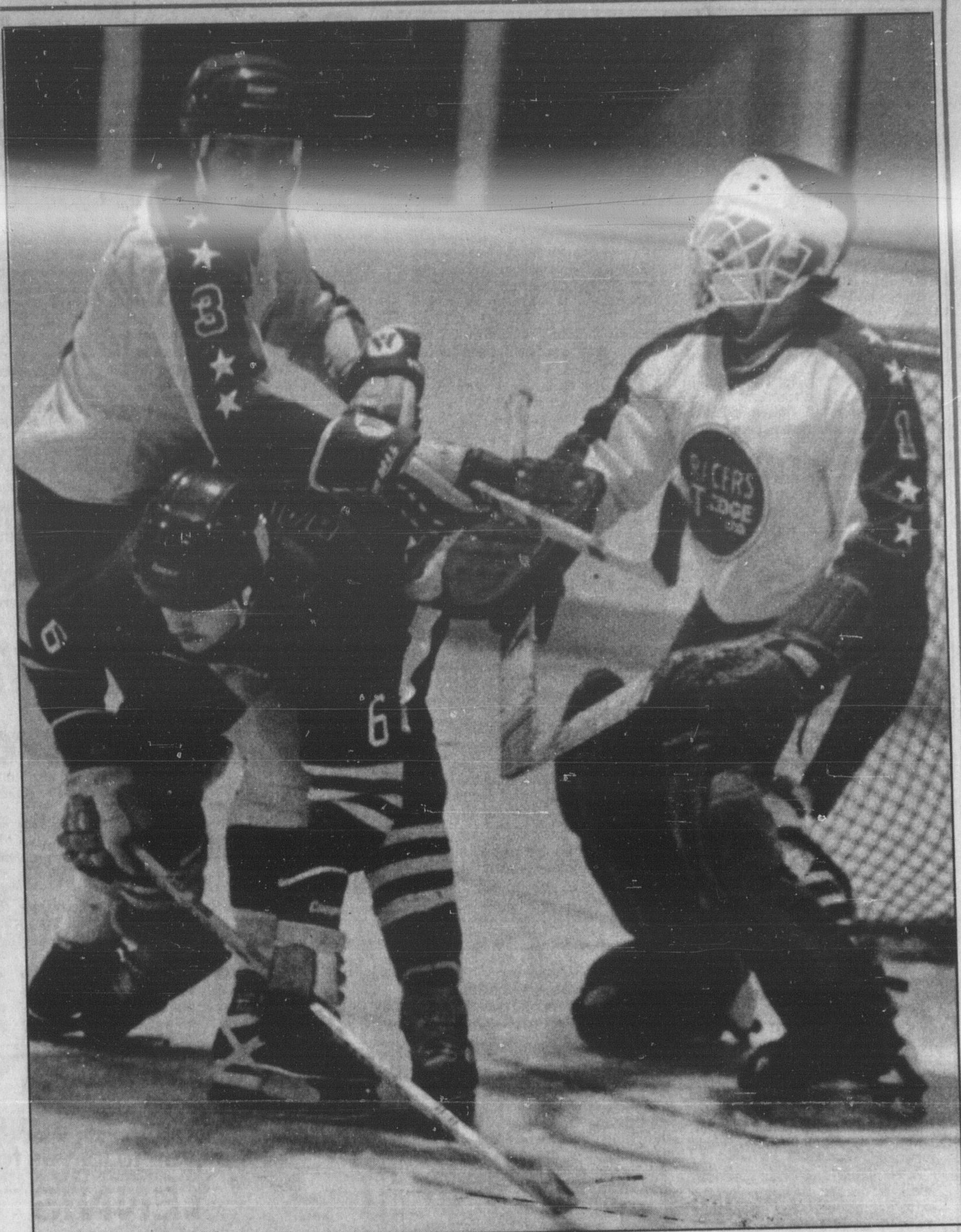
For JB Stable, it marks the fifth successive year the club has reached the finals although the teams have had several name changes (Town, Firefighters, Krantz Fuel Firefighters and now JB Stable).

It should be an interesting final. Last year, JB Stable played a tough semi-final series with Lou's Place while The Edge coasted past Hailton Hogs (now Miltowne). This year, the roles are reversed although JB Stable had a tougher series with Chrysler-Dodge than many anticipated.

Based on the regular season, The Edge should be rated as favorites to repeat. The teams split four games during the regular season.

The betting line is for the series to go five games. But then again, I bet last year's series to go five games and The Edge rolled to an easy three-straight win.

Lou's Place defender Gord Adams was selected Molson player of the game



The Edge's Tom Chuchmach ties up Hawk centreman Richard Burns Stable for the third consecutive year for the championship Shannon in front of goalie Al Horney during the third game of the Milton Industrial Hockey League. The first game is 7 p.m. their semi-final series. Racer's Edge won 7-3 and now face John Sunday at Milton Sports Centre.

with two goals and an assist. Referee Paul Benton was slated to officiate the game. However, seven hours before game-time, he was notified that Wayne Timbers would do the game. Benton had officiated the series' second game. Timbers called

nine minors to each club. Edge defenceman Bob McKee was injured early in the contest but returned to action later in the contest. Someone should look into the possibility of giving The Racer's Edge

coach Johnny Penson a cut of the gate receipts. For every Racer's Edge supporter in the crowd, there were about 10 cheering against The Edge and Penson chiefly. The same fans will be out next week cheering for John Burns Stable or anybody The Edge is playing.

Third-period rally lifts Welding to 9-5 victory

Milton Welding broke open a close game with four goals in a five-minute span in the third period to earn a 9-5 win over Schroeders Construction in the opener of the White Oaks Hockey League championship series Sunday at Memorial Arena.

The second game is set for Memorial Arena at 9 a.m. next Sunday. Welders have encountered little trouble so far in the playoffs although Schroeders put up a good battle in the opener.

After the teams drew 1-1 after one period, Milton Welding jumped out in front 5-2 after two periods. The length of the game was changed to three 20-minute periods.

Schroeders bounced back with two goals in the first six minutes of the third period to narrow the gap to a single tally before Welding went on a scoring rampage with four consecutive tallies in a five-minute span to secure the win. Schroeders added a single goal with just six seconds left in the game.

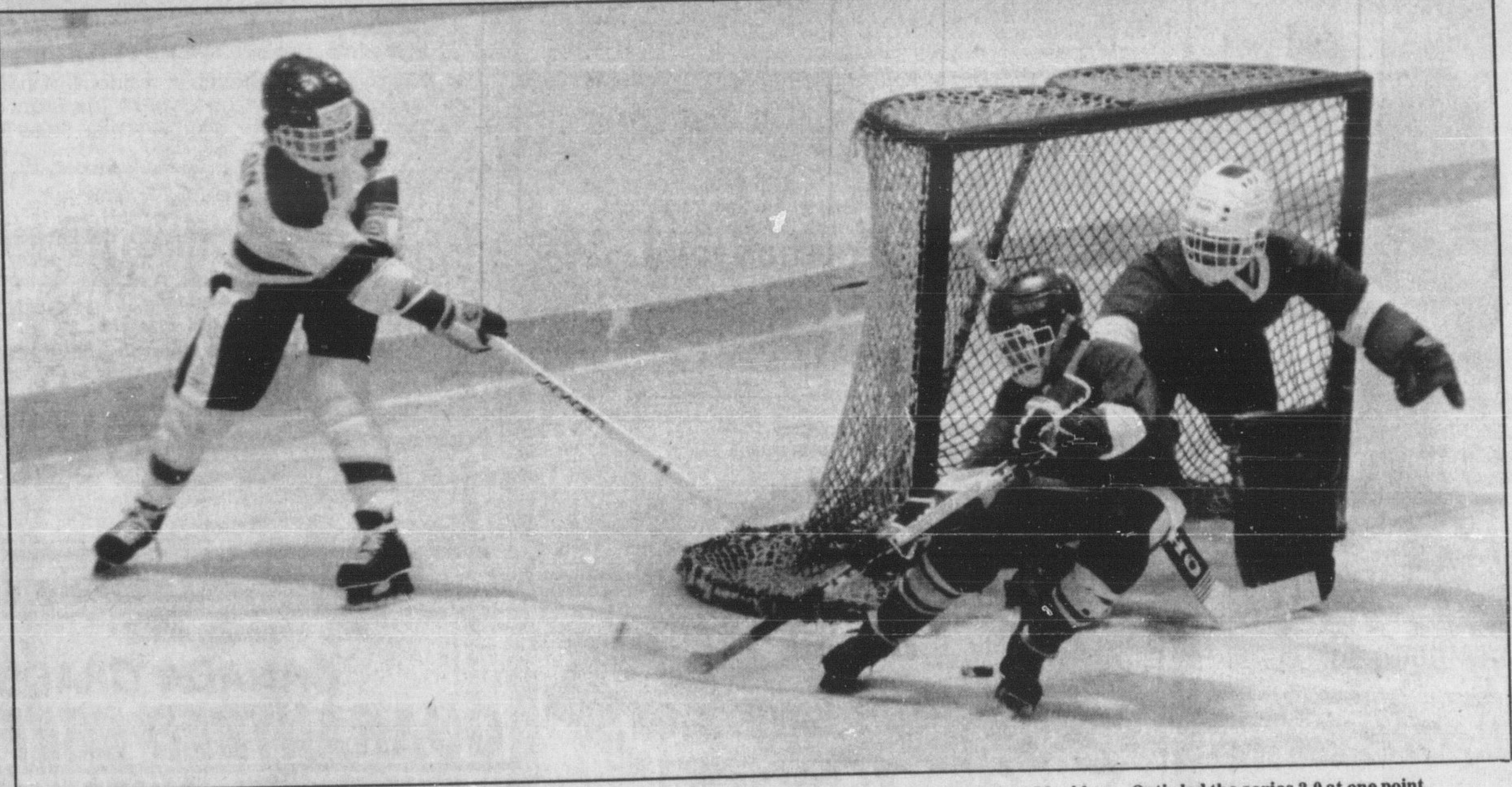
Milton's Jim Robertson opened the scoring midway through the first period with a shorthanded goal. Rod Gooding assisted on the play.

Schroeders tied the score with a power-play tally in the final minute by Joe Connor.

The close-checking and good goalkeeping continued until midway through the second period when Norm Mowbray fired his first of three for the game with Keith McKinnon and Kent Rennie assisting.

Rennie's power-play tally three minutes later boosted Welder's lead to 3-1 before Mowbray gave Milton a three-goal lead at the 5:38 mark. Connor bridged the gap to two goals less than two minutes later but Rick O'Donnell restored the margin with 55 seconds left in the frame.

In the third period, Schroeders caught fire and closed to within one goal with Jim Court and Rick Court notching tallies. But Welders' Terry Thompson threw a curve into a potential Schroeders' comeback with a goal 23 seconds later and successive markers by McKinnon, Gooding and Mowbray salted away the win.



Chris Harrison tries a pass in front of the Oak Ridge goal. Optis lost this game 4-1 but rebounded to win the fifth and deciding game 5-4 Sunday to advance to the OMHA championship series against Markham. Optis led the series 2-0 at one point.

Optis bound for title series Stop skidding to beat Oak Ridge 3-2 in deciding game

A more enthusiastic display on the ice was credited with Milton Optimist's pulling out a 5-4 win over London Oak Ridge Sunday afternoon to win their best-of-five OMHA semi-final series 3-2.

The win was a turnaround for the Milton club which slumped badly after winning the first two games. Oak Ridge bounced back to win the third game 6-3 Thursday in Oak Ridge and then evened the series with a 4-1 decision Saturday at Memorial Arena.

With the scene shifting back to Oak Ridge Sunday, Optimists came through with a determined effort overcoming a 3-2 first-period disadvantage with two unanswered goals in the second period and then another 12 seconds into the third period to build a 5-3 lead.

Oak Ridge made for an exciting finish with a goal two minutes into the final frame but strong goalkeeping from Jim Murray and continued good skating from Optimists held their London opponent off

the board the rest of the way. Optimists now meet Markham for the OMHA championship. "That final game was the fastest end-of-game we've played this year," explained Milton assistant coach Dave Gordon. "It was the reverse of what happened to us Saturday. We really wanted this one."

Optis' coach Darryl Taylor threw a curve at the opposition starting defenceman Jason Bahman at right wing alongside Matt McCandless and Chris Harrison with Bryan Haringa and Brad (B.J.) Jones on defence.

The move paid immediate dividends when Harrison finished off a nice three-way passing play just 20 seconds into the game.

Two minutes later, Oak Ridge scored the equalizer but before the period was five minutes old, Adam Mead restored Milton's one-goal lead with Doug Poulton and Danny Brown picking up assists.

Oak Ridge marched back with the tying and go-ahead goals before the period was out. As was Milton's forte throughout the game, Optimists got a quick jump at the start of a period. Just 16 seconds into the second period, Harrison notched his second of the afternoon with Paul Allen picking up an assist.

Poulton made it 4-3 for Optis midway through the period with Brown and Allen earning assists.

The teams played the rest of the period without a goal to set the stage for a dramatic finish.

McCandless scored 12 seconds into the third period off a deflected shot with Harrison earning the assist to give Optimists some breathing room. However that room was shortlived when Oak Ridge narrowed the margin to a single goal just two minutes later.

Milton's close-checking seemed to take the wind out of Oak Ridge's sails the rest of the way enabling Optis to take the win and the series.

In the third game, Milton came out somewhat overconfident and after scoring quickly allowed Oak Ridge to pull ahead 3-1 and 6-2.

Jones, Poulton and McCandless scored for Milton with Warren House, Shawn Hasselheldt, Jones, Bahman and Mead picking up assists.

It wasn't much different Saturday as Oak Ridge out-hustled and checked Milton well. Oak Ridge was aided by unlucky shooting from the Milton forwards who missed several glorious scoring opportunities with the goalie down and out of position.

Oldstars champs in tourney

It looks like the lessons Milton Oldstars picked up in their exhibition game with the Professional Oldstars two weeks ago paid immediate dividends.

The club participated in a tournament in Burlington on the March Break period and won five consecutive games to capture the championship.

The club received a superlative goal-scoring effort from Dave Parham who produced nine goals in four games and also received some excellent goal-scoring from the rest of the club on their way to the title.

Terry O'Brien and Dave Ballard shared the goalkeeping and the duo combined to allow just 13 goals while their teammates produced 31 at the other end.

In the tournament opener, Milton blasted Kitchener-Waterloo Rustys 10-3 with Parham leading the way with four goals. John Hall and Carl Hymers added a pair of goals apiece with Al Johnson and Rick O'Donnell adding singles.

Gord Bell picked up three assists while Joe Auger and Brian McDuffe assisted on two goals. Gord Hasselheldt, Bert Bertoli, Grant Turner, Hymers and O'Donnell earned one assist each.

The club then played the host Burlington Rusty Nails and in a rough game which saw O'Donnell ejected, Milton pulled out a 6-4 win in the final minutes.

Parham scored Milton's final three goals to secure the win. Dave Del Papa had a big game with two goals and three assists to pace the offence. Bell chipped in with a goal and an assist.

The close games continued and in the final game of the three-game round-robin, Milton doubled the score on Hamilton 4-2 with Del Papa leading the way with two goals and Hymers and Hasselheldt adding singles.

In the semi-final, Milton encountered little problem with Toronto Lakeshore rolling up a 5-0 shutout win. Johnson and Parham struck for two goals apiece with Bell adding a single. Milton met up with Hamilton again for the championship with Johnson supplying the dramatics scoring the tying and winning goals. Hymers chipped in with two goals with singles going to Del Papa and O'Donnell who had arrived in Burlington just in time for the game having played for Milton Welding in the White Oaks Hockey League opener of the final series.