

Burns stops Edge attack capture MIHL opener 6-3 in commanding fashion

by MICHAEL BOYLE
Champion Sports Editor

Costly second-period penalties and a poor all-around defensive effort from The Racer's Edge enabled John Burns Stable to take the first game of the Milton Industrial Hockey League championship series by a 6-3 score Sunday night at Milton Sports Centre.

It was a game The Racer's Edge lost more than JB Stable won as the clubs play the rubber match of the continuing three-year drama to discover the best team in the MIHL.

The scene shifts to Memorial Arena (Thompson Rd.) for the second and all succeeding games in the best-of-five finals. The next game goes Sunday at 7 p.m.

JB Stable recovered from a shaky start in the opening period to dominate the final two periods with superior puck control and better chances. Backed by the steady goalkeeping of Phil 'Ace' Bailey, JB Stable overturned a 3-2 first-period disadvantage into a 5-3 lead after two periods. The club added a single goal in the third period but, more importantly, completely shut down the explosive Racer's Edge offence in the third period to easily record the victory.

Penalties again played a key part in the game as Burns Stable picked up five power-play opportunities in the second period and responded with two goals plus a third while the teams were at even strength to take the lead.

Burns Stable started quickly and one minute into the contest took a 1-0 lead with a goal from defenceman Bob Rusk with Jay Norland and Ron Armstrong drawing assists.

The Edge bounced back four minutes later with the equalizer. Richard Murray poked home the goal assisted by Peter McCuaig and Dave McKee.

However, Rusk, who hasn't built much of a reputation as a goal-scoring defenceman playing the entire season without a goal, produced his second of the night midway through the period from Randy Coulson.

Burns Stable ran into penalty problems which led to two quick Racer's goals. Lester Wilson notched the equalizer at 2-2 with just over a minute left in the period before Dave McKee put The Edge ahead for

the first time in the game with just 28 seconds left in the frame. League scoring champion Eric Ellison and Larry Scott each assisted on both goals.

It was a completely different story in the second period. The Edge started the period a man short and in less than three minutes picked up two additional minors from referee Stan Fay.

Burns' captain Jay Norland, Molson player of the game, scored the tying goal less than two minutes into the frame when his slapshot from the point along the ice eluded Edge goalie Dave Ballard. Derek Griffiths and John Hellyer assisted.

Less than a minute later, Armstrong capped off the prettiest play of the game by tipping in a pass from Coulson to put Burns into a lead the club didn't relinquish. Buddy Thomas started the play at his own blue line. He passed to Coulson just outside the Edge's blue line. Coulson carried the puck on a two-on-one with Armstrong and his pass was tipped perfectly.

Midway through the period, Armstrong notched his second of the night with Thomas and Norland earning assists.

With a minute left in the period, Ballard injured his knee in a collision in front of the goal. Although he completed the period, Ballard was replaced at the start of the final frame by Al Horney.

Horney was steady throughout the third period. The only goal resulted from a miscue in front of the goal when Horney stopped a drive but was out of position. With the puck lying virtually on the goal line, Griffiths was Johnny-on-the-spot to poke it home. Don Habkirk and Jim Marshall picked up assists.

Notes: The Molson Player of the Game was Burns defenceman Jay Norland who in addition to picking up a goal and two assists controlled the play whenever he was on the ice. If Burns is to capture the series, they'll need the continued good work supplied by Norland.

Phil Bailey went the distance in goal for Burns. The club's defence helped Bailey blank The Edge over the last two periods effectively clearing away rebounds.

A full crowd is expected at Memorial Sunday so one might be advised to arrive in plenty of time.



Despite a collision course around the Burns goal, the puck stayed out as Burns defeated the defending champion Racer's Edge in the MIHL opener Sunday. From left to right are, Les Wilson, Roger Clement, goalie Phil Bailey and Dave Marshall.

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The third game in the series goes next Sunday morning at Memorial Arena.

Schroeder opened the scoring less than four minutes into the game with Brian Murray scoring the only marker of the period.

Norm Mowbray evened the score with Welding's first goal after seven minutes of the second period with Jim Simpson and Mike Leslie earning assists.

Five minutes later, Rick O'Donnell put Welders ahead with an unassisted goal and the club didn't look back.

O'Donnell opened the third period with a goal from Tom Martin 22 seconds after the start for a 3-1 lead and Welders were on their way.


Dave Turner made it 4-1 four minutes later from O'Donnell and within a minute Norm

Mowbray upped the lead to four goals when he scored from Keith McKinnon and Skip McTrach.

Schroeder's Brian Marvel finally found a way to beat Glenn Turner in the Welder's goal. Dave Turner and McKinnon completed the scoring for Milton while Keith Doyle finished the Schroeder scoring in the final minute.

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