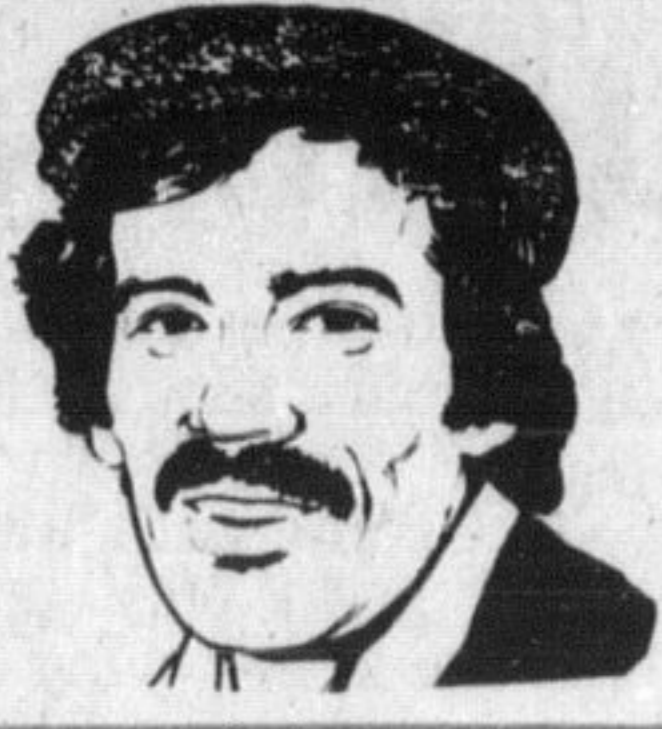


Mike Boyle



Tennis club all set to go

THE DREAM of any reasonably competitive tennis player is to play in a good club with good courts on a good facility.

Within a few months, several hundred members of the Milton Tennis Club will see that long-held dream turn into reality when the courts and clubhouse at E.C. Drury School are completed.

But they will have paid for it. Not so much in money, although that too, but more in time have members given of themselves to provide Milton with a first-class facility. And they'll spend more time before it's all done.

For almost a half-dozen years, members of the club have searched several avenues to find the right way to succeed in bringing a first-class facility to Milton as cheaply as possible. It has become apparent that the Rotary Park Courts, while sufficient for recreational and part-time use, had served out its usefulness for the scope in which the Milton Tennis Club would like. Not only were the courts beginning to resemble a CNE roller-coaster, but simple things like using a washroom weren't even possible.

After the club scaled down a grandiose plan which would have immediately included squash courts and several other lavish attractions, the club and the town got together and prepared a scaled-down version. Although catering only to tennis, the courts themselves are first-class and are shielded from the wind which should provide excellent tennis. Now, the members will have to think of new reasons as to their poor serves or missed shots.

The challenge is just beginning in many respects. The club needs about 500 members to make the club go. At this point, they are about halfway to the goal.

"We were up to the 400-500 level a few years ago," explains MTC president Tony Schafer, "when we first brought out our proposal. So the people are out there."

"We purposely left the fees cheap to get people involved. We had to appeal to the Timberlea group and also stay competitive with the other clubs in town."

The fees are relatively inexpensive. Family rates are \$90 a season while those in Timberlea Phases Three and Four can join for half-price as a result of a deal made with the developer.

The club expects to make its big push in March. Once the club becomes officially completed, more members are apt to join after seeing and, more importantly, playing on the all-weather courts.

Despite the new numbers of new courts in the area, Schafer said he doesn't see them as anything but beneficial to his club in the long run.

"I think all those courts are good for us because you will also get a filtering of people. Once they become more competitive and more involved, they'll want to join a club such as ours."

Good signs of the new facility were already shown in that the MTC held its annual general meeting last Friday in the new clubhouse. There is still much work to be done but club members will spend their time and energy to prepare it for the upcoming season. They wouldn't have it any other way.

In the coming weeks, The Champion will provide more on the workings of the Milton Tennis Club. Stay tuned.

The individual awards for the Central Ont. Jr. B League were announced Monday and Milton's Tim Pollen was named co-winner of the most sportsmanlike award.

He tied in points with George Chadala of Streetsville.

Other winners were Kevin McCann, Barrie, most valuable; Andy Craig, Barrie, best defenceman; Marc West, Burlington, top rookie; Jerry Foster, Burlington, most improved; and Mike McCann, Barrie, top coach.

Barrie picks Steamers for quarter-finals

Barrie Colts will be the opposition when Milton Steamers begin playoff action in the Central Ont. Jr. B League Thursday night.

The best-of-seven series begins in Barrie with a 7:30 p.m. start before coming to Memorial Arena Friday for a 7:45 p.m. The third game is slated for Barrie Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. with the fourth game back here at Milton next Friday at 7:45 p.m.

There were many rumbles throughout the season Streetsville would select Steamers in the first round. The top four

clubs in the league, Streetsville, Oakville, Burlington and Barrie in that order, selected their opponents. However, in the end Streetsville manager Stan Kalapaca opted for the lowly Acton Sabres.

Oakville selected next and chose Georgetown Gemini while Burlington picked Thornhill leaving Milton for Barrie. All series are best-of-seven and must be concluded by Feb. 25.

Barrie and Steamers met six times in the regular season with Barrie winning four, including all three matches in Barrie. Colts also out-scored Milton by a

wide margin, 38-27 in the six games. The only Milton lopsided win, 7-2 Dec. 3 at Milton, was made possible by a four-goal outburst from Bob Landry.

(For Milton coach Tom Martin's comments on the upcoming playoffs, see story below.)

Barrie is expected to have high-scoring midget Shane Corson back in the line-up. Corson was near the top in individual scoring before suffering a broken leg and missing more than the last half of the schedule.

Meanwhile, Steamers should ice their most competitive line-up of the year Wednesday (tonight). For the past month, Milton has gone with a variety of juvenile and midget players in an effort to give their wounded players a rest. All are expected back.

Milton last participated in post-season play during the 1978-79 season. Although it was a foregone conclusion Steamers would take part in the playoffs (each team qualified), the club earned the right with its .500 record.

Champion Sports

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

MILTON, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 1983

THIRD SECTION

Unbeaten in five

Steamers finish at even .500

By SHELDON TAYLOR

Milton junior hockey fans now have good reason to be proud. After several years of losing records, and missing the playoffs for the past three seasons, Milton Steamers finished the year with a respectable record and bonifide promise heading into post-season play.

Many factors contributed to the club's turnaround this season. A fresh approach through coach Tom Martin, a change in nickname and ownership, new players and a certain amount of self-respect the players acquired are all responsible.

It's official—Steamers came through with a dramatic upsurge at the end of the season to finish smack at the .500 plateau. The club accomplished the feat by beating Oakville Blades 5-1 Tuesday in Oakville. Then, Steamers maintained their record with a 6-6 saw-off against Acton Sabres at home Friday.

Steamers finished the season with an impressive five-game unbeaten string to claim fifth spot in the Central Ont. Jr. B League circuit with an 18-18-6 won-lost-tie record.

Against Acton, Milton originally appeared content to let the lowly Sabres publicly embarrass them right in front of the hometown crowd. Veteran Bill Lynch scored early in the first period to stake Steamers to a 1-0 lead.

However, it was all downhill for the club the rest of the period. Milton played as if they were in a fog. The defence was sloppy, forwards missed passes and many shots were off the mark. The Sabres capitalized on the mistakes with three goals, including a power-play goal to end the frame with a 3-1 margin.

The contest changed dramatically in the middle frame as Steamers came out of the dressing room flying. The rejuvenated squad exploded for five goals during the period including four goals in a span of four minutes.

Defenceman Rick Brown got things rolling when he scored at 17:33 drilling a wrist shot past Acton netminder Rob Ruffino to pull Milton to within a goal. Jeff Vandervorst, an elevated juvenile



Steamer goalie Paolo Zulian dives after a loose puck while Oakville's Dave Barrett and Milton's Randy Perusello collide in front of the goal during Steamers 5-1 win last Tuesday in Oakville.

Steamers played one of their best games of the year in pulling off the win and now meet Barrie in the first round of the playoffs.

player, banged home his first of two for the night 88 seconds later to tie the score 3-3.

Team penalty leader Randy Perusello chipped in with a goal 61 seconds later to put Milton up by one. Scott Sanders, the hot goal scorer of late, completed the outburst 69 seconds later.

The teams then played end-to-end hockey displaying a wide-open game. Vandervorst scored his second goal of the night near the end of the period but Acton got that one back shortly after. Then with six seconds showing on the clock, Sabres scored to narrow the gap to 6-5 after two periods.

The last frame proved to be an offensive struggle with only one goal. With

5:20 left to play, Acton scored the equalizer on a tip-in wrecking a brilliant period of goaltending by Paolo Zulian.

Milton started the period looking sluggish and tired after playing hard in the second period. But by the end of the game they were back in form trying to pad their lead.

They almost succeeded several times but were thwarted by Ruffino who made some sensational saves in the dying seconds. Vandervorst missed an open net when he fired from the goalie's doorstep and Tim Pollen hit the goal post dead on with 14 seconds left.

Milton took eight minor penalties in the game while Acton received four minors, all of which came in the first period. The Steamers were only able to work off the

power play on one occasion, an attempt in which they failed.

Steamers had three players with three-point nights. Vandervorst, with his two goals, also had an assist. Sanders copped two assists to go along with his goal and Pollen played a solid game chipping in with three helpers. Perusello also tagged an assist to his point production setting up the final goal.

Asked to explain his club's turnaround from the first to the second period, Steamer coach Tom Martin revealed he chewed the team out between periods.

"I told them that they had to get back on their game plan. They weren't skating or checking or doing the things they were supposed to do."

"The idea with Acton is to shoot the puck in and let their defence make mistakes and cough the puck up. They (Steamers) weren't doing that. I told them that there was no reason they should lose to Acton. Luckily, they played better in the second."

When asked about his team's chances with the playoffs fast approaching, Martin replied, "I am quite confident about our chances. We are going to have most of our regulars back and I think we are ready. Tonight (Friday), we were not mentally prepared. But I think that was because it was against Acton. Also, I tended to rest some players for the playoffs."

"I don't care who draws us in the playoffs because we can beat anybody and we have proven it. I already know who I'm going to go with and I know we are going to be a contender if we stick to our game plan."

Steamers played one of their finest games of the year against Oakville Tuesday taking command of the game early. Zulian, who started four of the team's last five games, put in an outstanding effort between the pipes. He was credited with making 41 saves and had a shutout going until midway through the final period.

Steamers struck for two first-period goals and carried the 2-0 lead into the third period. After Blades finally solved Zulian for their first and only goal of the game, Steamers exploded for three goals in a three-minute span to wrap up the victory.

The win was even more significant in that Oakville was in the midst of a race for second place. Blades lacked the intensity and drive after discovering Steamers and Zulian were going to give it their best shot.

Although the statistician credited Milton with just 21 shots, five found the mark. Sanders scored twice and added two assists while Bob Mills, Bob Landry and Mike Chudleigh, up from the major midgets, each counted one.

Steamers went with just 13 skaters. Playing with Perusello much of the night, Chudleigh put in a strong performance showing poise and control of a veteran.

Steamer scoring statistics and summaries are on page C8. The club's final standing and complete playoff schedule are on page C5.



Just because there's snow on the roof, it doesn't mean indoor sports have been hibernating. Milton's minor atom rep soccer team has begun practising at E.C. Drury School on Friday nights. Here, Alan Gouk goes over his ball handling skills while Blair Shenton waits his turn. The team practises every Friday night. Any boy nine years old as of Jan. 1, 1983 who would like to try out with the team is asked to call coach John Morgan at 878-6570.

Now face Georgetown

Aggies take thrilling series

Showing a gutsy and determined effort throughout, Milton Dufferin Aggregates minor midgets battled back from behind to beat out Dundas for the right to meet Georgetown in the Tri-County final series.

In a best-of-three series which went four games, Aggies and Dundas played to a 5-5 overtime draw last Thursday at Milton before Aggies won out in another thrilling overtime match 7-6 Sunday in Dundas.

Chris Austin was the hero of the final game notching four goals including two in overtime to provide Aggies with the margin of victory.

Despite a noon start Sunday, both clubs came out fired up for the final game and played an exciting contest. The teams ended the first period tied at 1-1 and Milton carried a slim 3-1 lead into the final frame.

After Dundas opened the scoring midway through the first, Perri Hood tied the score with a minute left from Kevin Luoma and Austin.

In the second period, Glen Houston scored four minutes into the frame from Tracy Harding and Alan James. Hood upped the lead to 3-1 two minutes later with a goal from Marshall Cram.

Dundas got rolling early in the third period with a power-play goal in the first minute. Austin countered with his first of four a minute later from Luoma.

The Milton recovery was short-lived as Dundas eupted for three unanswered goals to take a 5-4 lead heading into the last couple of minutes.

Austin came through again when he scored the equalizer 97 seconds from the buzzer. Paul Wilson and Hood assisted.

The see-saw contest continued in overtime. Austin put Milton into the lead once more 77 seconds into extra time. However, Dundas bounced back to even the score with three minutes left. That set the stage for Austin's winning tally with 1:04 showing on the clock while his club was enjoying a man-advantage situation.

The tone for the fourth game was set by the third contest. The teams played through regulation time in a 4-4 tie. In overtime, each club scored once.

Alan James came through with the heroics scoring the tying goal with 34 seconds to go in regulation time and then again produced the tying goal with just 1:40 left in extra time. On both goals, James deflected shots into the goal.

Houston, Hood and Harding also scored for Milton with Harding and Luoma picking up two assists

apiece. Single assists went to Hood, Houston and Wilson.

Aggies now battle Georgetown in a best-of-three series for the right to advance into OMHA. The first game is in Georgetown Thursday at 7 p.m. The teams meet again back here at Memorial Arena Saturday at 8 p.m. with the third game (if necessary) going Sunday at 5:30 p.m. in Georgetown.

Movers jump into 2-1 lead

Led by the five-goal performance of Matt McCandless, Milton Scannell Movers major peewees exploded for an 8-2 win over Georgetown Monday and a 2-1 lead in their best-of-five Tri-County final qualifying series.

Movers dropped the opening game by a 4-1 count last Thursday before Milton bounced back to take a 2-1 squeaker Saturday in Milton.

The 8-2 win puts Milton in the driver's seat as the series shifts to Georgetown Thursday.

In the third game, McCandless went on a scoring rampage with five goals and added an assist. Chris Harrison, Adam Mead and Andrew Defrancesco added singles to the Movers attack. Kevin Elkins, John Snow and Philip Leach picked up two assists apiece in the romp.

In the first game of the series, Georgetown came out flying in their home rink dominating Milton for the better part of the game. Elkins notched the only goal for Milton from Mead and Elkins which narrowed the gap to 2-1.

Movers trailed by just one goal in the final frame but frustration set in at Georgetown's close-checking tactics. Movers retaliated with a rash of penalties and Georgetown capitalized for two more scores.

The series shifted to Memorial Arena Saturday. Movers hustled for the entire contest to even the series with the 2-1 win.

The Milton line of Paul Allen, Mead and Elkins controlled the play whenever it was on the ice. It took them just 18 seconds to score the game's first goal with Mead firing the goal with assists to each of his linemates.

Georgetown tied the score before the period was out but Elkins sent Allen in alone and he made no mistake in potting the winner.