



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY OCTOBER 3, 1997

Merchants must rally to earn win

By **STEVE LeBLANC***Special to The Champion*

The Milton Merchants bent but didn't break Tuesday at Hamilton's Mountain Arena.

Rallying from a miserable second-period performance, Marty Williamson's crew got their heads together long enough to claim a 6-5 overtime victory against the Kilty B's.

The less than aesthetically pleasing win was capped midway through the five-minute sudden death frame, when rookie winger Chad Blundy stuffed home a loose puck left by Troy Walczak.

Also assisting on the play was captain Jeff Haydar.

"We didn't play a very good game tonight. Our odd-man rushes and defensive zone coverage wasn't where it should be, but fortunately they gutted out the win," said Williamson.

Putting Milton in position for an overtime triumph with third-period tallies were Darren Haydar and Randy Stolec.

The two sophomore forwards scored earlier as well for their first multi-goal outputs this season.

Haydar went upstairs twice on goalie Steve McFarlane while Stolec positioned himself in front and dumped in rebounds.

The Merchants were caught napping in the second. Their mid-evening snooze allowed Hamilton to unload with four unanswered goals, including three in a minute and five seconds.

They also ran into penalty trouble in the opening frame. Fortunately, their hosts hit a scoring slump at the same time and managed just seven shots and no goals on four powerplays.

As a result, Milton escaped the period with a one-goal lead thanks to Stolec's initial tally and a few key saves by David Cinelli.

Also scoring on the night was third-year defenceman Mark McPhail while Ron Baker collected three assists.

Steve French and Shawn Smith drew two helpers a piece.

Leading Hamilton's offensive efforts was second-year rear-guard David Russell, who scored once and added two assists.

Merchant notes: Ron Baker and Kevin O'Flaherty have assisted in all four regular season games ... Milton has killed 18 of 20 penalties so far this year ... Ongoing foot soreness forced Shane Sullivan to leave after the first period Tuesday ... The Merchants travel to Iceland next Tuesday to battle the Mississauga Chargers.

Reid saves the tie

Matt Reid scored two goals, including a last-minute equalizer Monday at Memorial Arena, in the Halton Lift Truck AA major atoms' 3-3 draw with Oakville.

Taking passes from Daniel Lynch and David Tielemans, Reid tied the game with just five seconds remaining to salvage Milton's home opener.

Also scoring on the night was Nathan Keith while Jamie Webb, Kyle Strong and Nole Controuzas drew the assists.

Robert Smith was outstanding in the cage, with ample defensive help provided by Justin Deshaw, Matt Lenardon and Tim Warmels.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Are we having fun yet?

Youthful participants in the two-kilometre Mountsberg Fun Run looked fairly serious as they jogged along a nature trail last Sunday. Hundreds turned out for the races, which also included a more serious 10-kilometre competition. The event is an annual fundraiser for the conservation area.

Maddy bounces back from layoff

Mystical Maddy may have missed the summer heat but she continued on her sizzling fall pace in the \$126,000 Milton Stakes Saturday evening.

Sidelined for three months this summer with a leg injury and then sickness, the four-year-old daughter of Matts Scooter flashed her usual brilliant form in rolling to her second consecutive stakes win since her return.

Sitting fifth in the six-horse field past the half, driver Michel Lachance pulled the trigger three-wide, surging to the front by the three quarter mark in 1:24.2.

The gritty mare then kept enough in reserve to fight off a hard charging Jays Table to win by one-and-one-quarter lengths in a splendid 1:53.1 mile.

Pace-setter Maddys Image held on for third.

"I'm very happy with her, she couldn't be any better," said Lachance of Mystical Maddy, who was sent off as the heavy 2-5 favorite.

"She's just a great, great mare and we're very lucky to have her back. It doesn't make up for the time she lost. It wasn't her fault. It was nobody's fault, it was just an accident."

Lachance was referring to the freak injury Mystical Maddy suffered in her stall when spooked during a thunderstorm in June. Prior to the Milton Stakes, Mystical Maddy's two comeback starts resulted in a second and then a victory in the \$131,000 final of the Roses Are Red Series at



Hoof Beat

with **BRUCE MURRAY**

Woodbine on September 5th.

"I'm just happy to have her racing," added owner Bob Glazer of the Peter Pan Stables of Ohio. "It's such a thrill for me to watch her race. I don't get too nervous watching a lot of horses race, but I still get pretty nervous watching her. She's provided us with a lot of thrills."

• see **CONDREN** on page 27

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