SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION FRIDAY JANUARY 30, 1998

Long shot atoms prove to be the comeback kids

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to The Champion

The Denver Broncos weren't the only ones who silenced their critics last weekend.

Milton's AA minor atoms were written off as long shots for the International Silver Stick Hockey Tournament — by everyone including their bench boss, Martin Larkin.

"We had lost to a couple of weaker teams heading up to the tournament, and I honestly didn't think we had a prayer," the local skipper admitted.

The Docs and Dents-sponsored crew didn't quite cover the whole nine yards like John Elway and company, but they did pull off a heck of a Cinderella story before bowing out to Sudbury in the championship finals.

Their biggest win — and sweetest too — came in the semis Saturday evening when they laid a 4-0 pasting on host Newmarket.

The final four victory was payback for Milton, who had fallen 3-0 to their eastern neighbours just a few hours earlier in round-robin play.

Returning from a brief battle with the flu that sidelined him for the first Newmarket battle, blueline anchor Elgin Reid tallied twice and led a supercharged defensive unit that afforded their hosts very few quality scoring chances.

And what they couldn't stop, cager Carl Chan confidently turned aside.

Also scoring were Matt Chuchmach and spark plug Kyle Hearns.

The following morning Milton grabbed an early lead on Sudbury but eventually ran out of gas and fell 4-1.

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>
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Their opponents scored two in the final frame including a last-minute empty netter.

Goalie Michael Binnington kept his 'Hawks within striking distance while Scott Collard registered their lone goal.

"It speaks volumes when parents and coaches of the opposing team talk about how disciplined your players were and how well they played," said Larkin, recalling post-championship conversations.

"They really came to play."

Milton pulled off back-to-back shockers during the opening day of the tournament, including a 3-2 come-from-behind win over Clarington.

David Brush took a perfectly placed drop pass from Reid and unloaded the game-winning goal late in the second.

Reid and Chris Pedulla were the other marksmen.

Chan posted his first goose egg of the tournament against heavily favoured Barrie, in a 4-0 victory.

Air crew delivers big win

Spectrum Airways put an exclamation mark at the end of a strong 1997-98 regular season Monday at Memorial, with a 10-0 shellacking of Orangeville.

The AA major bantams registered as many goals on the night as the Crushers did shots on net — all of which were thwarted by cager Josh Arnold.

Derek Mewhinney tallied twice and added two helpers while Jordan Jeans amassed four assists to complement his lone score.

Mike Austen and Jacob Vanderbreggen posted two goals and one assist a piece.

Also denting twine were Matt Craig, Matt deRee and Bren Silk. Ryan Harper drew a pair of assists.

Milton finished with an impressive 19-8-5 record for second-place in Tri-County play.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Anna Dyminski, 12 gets into a tuck as she nears the finish line in Saturday's giant slalom race at Glen Eden. She races with the Milton Heights club.

Quick silver team gets win

Caroline MacCullum and Daniel May provided an unbeatable one-two punch on the Glen Eden ski slopes last weekend and paced their Milton Heights Mackenzie Silver team to victory.

They posted the fastest male and female runs — 30.58 and 34.24 seconds respectively — and scored first-place honours to guide their team past London 107-88.

Lauren Ogilvie took second in the girls division while Spencer Grell placed third for the boys.

Craig Hodgson and Marianne Leeson both finished fifth.

Milton Heights was well represented on the road as well last weekend, thanks to the efforts of the Mackenzie Gold crew who beat Collingwood's Jozo Weider and Kimberly teams.

May Yee Lim and Greg Cole led the way with two top three placings at both Blue Mountain and Snow Valley.

Lim was the fastest down the hill at Snow Valley and took third at Blue Mountain. She also had the best single runs over both days.

Cole meanwhile, placed second and third respectively at Snow Valley and Blue Mountain.

His best run of the weekend — 41.33 at Snow Valley — beat Lim's fastest mark by less than two seconds.

Mark Curtis had the best male run at Blue Mountain, 33.92, and took second-place honours.

Also placing top five were Meagan Behse and Willie Cripps while Kerri Leeson finished sixth.

In other recent action, Campbellville's Colin Martin used his home slopes of Glen Eden to post

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