

Defence key to Hawks' victory

The AA minor novice Winterhawks threw Fort Knox security in front of Georgetown and won the best-of-five Tri County championship.

Superb defensive efforts — by Justin Bailey, Ryan Lecky, Cole Madansky, Brad Mewhinney and Jon Monk — held the opposing Raiders to just one goal a game and cost them three slim defeats.

Milton wrapped things up at Georgetown's old Memorial Arena, a

Bantams are tops in Tri-County

Milton's AA minor bantams left little room for doubt as to who the top Tri-County team was this year.

On the strength of stellar goaltending and a balanced attack, the Winterhawks spanked Orangeville 6-1 in the best-of-three championship rubber match at Memorial Arena March 28.

The hometown crew struck early and often, enjoying production from 11 different players.

John Taylor fired the final two goals to squash any hope for an Orangeville comeback.

Also denting the twine were Chris Dumencu, Darryl Langstone, Ricky Nadalin and Michael Volpe.

Drawing assists were Ryan Harper, Andrew Kirkland, Kevin Sales, Jeff Thomas, Justin Tingley and Quinn Young.

Chris Wasilkowsky's shutout bid was ended in the final five minutes of play. Prior to that he stopped all two dozen shots in the first two periods with some crafty cage work.

Milton has opponent on defence

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sles of the postseason.

Baker, Bannan and Walczak led offensively with two goals and one assist apiece while McPhail collected three helpers.

Blundy, Gillies, French, Sullivan and Jeff Hutchins registered singles. Drawing two assists each were Mini, Kevin Crowe and John Nadalin — Milton's top plus/minus player at 22.

Daniel Jacques continued his mastery in the cager, setting the tone early in both games with big saves. He faced a total of 41 shots but wasn't adequately tested upstairs.

Game four goes tomorrow at 7:30 p.m. in Milton.

Merchant notes: Before last night, Milton rode a 14-game winning streak. Their last defeat came March 1 against Oakville ... Bruins legend Bobby Orr attended Sunday's game ... Should they advance past Wexford, the Merchants will face either Rayside Balfour or Parry Sound in the All-Ontario finals.

venue in which they hadn't won all season.

This — according to skipper Dan Fillman — provided that little extra motivation to sweep the series.

"They were a pretty determined bunch, there wasn't much that was going to stop them," said Fillman of his Optimist Club-sponsored crew.

Milton won the tilt 3-1, thanks to stellar netminding by Devin Medland and goals by Joshua Brittain, Michael Brown and Michael Vipond.

Prior to this the 'Hawks notched a pair of 2-1 victories. Medland guarded the cage in the series opener while tandem partner Joey DeAthe was hot between the pipes in game two.

Brown led offensively in both contests,

figuring in all four goals. He netted the equalizer and game-winner in game one's overtime triumph and then posted a goal and an assist in the second game.

Assisting on his overtime tally were Mac Fillman and Justin Webber while Nick Horbasz sank the eventual winner in game two.

Other big performances throughout the series came from Daryl Brinke, Michael Hannah and Jeff Lynch.

The Tri County win marked the second time this season Fillman's crew edged Georgetown out of a championship.

The first came at the Beaver Tournament where Milton pulled off a come-from-behind 7-5 double-overtime shootout victory.

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