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TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 1998



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton Magic forward Jennifer Garthson (right) fights for possession during the under-16 girls soccer team's League Cup finals with Kitchener Sunday. Milton lost 2-0. See next page for more championship game photos.

Merchants tie as Blues rally

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Ouch, that's got to sting a little. Fighting back from adversity Friday at Victoria Park Arena, the Jr. A Merchants got within half a heartbeat of keeping their unblemished record intact.

But for one final moment lady luck would ride the shoulders of Bramalea, who managed to pot the equalizer with just three-tenths of a second remaining in regulation time.

Erasing Milton's only lead of the game — established with two tallies in the last six minutes — was sophomore winger Scott Neil, whose upstairs hopper bounced past Jeremy Wenzel and just a hair over the goal line.

Neither side could mount much in overtime and the game ended in a 4-4 stalemate, leaving both teams unbeaten after week three of the season.

Brampton and Newmarket are the other Provincial League clubs that have not yet tasted defeat.

While genuine luck favoured the hometown boys at crunch time, the Merchants were in fact every bit as fortunate to escape the night with a tie.

They were blessed with a garbage goal at 4:36 of the third — when a wide-angle shot by Geoff Schomogyi

was redirected in off a defenceman's skate — and were beaten just once on a dozen shorthanded stints.

Through the early stages of play Milton just couldn't restrain themselves against the highly chippy Blues, who're still masters at drawing opponents into penalties.

Captain and offensive anchor Kevin O'Flaherty was ejected in the opening 10 minutes for checking from behind, while his teammates were thrown off their game for nearly two periods.

They finally regrouped down the stretch — at which time Ryan Eby cut Bramalea's lead to one on a long range blast and Jeff Seeds bulldozed his way past two defenders and knotted things with 4:42 left to play.

Also scoring was first-year defenceman Ryan Carrigan while fellow rearguard Matt Bannan drew a pair of assists.

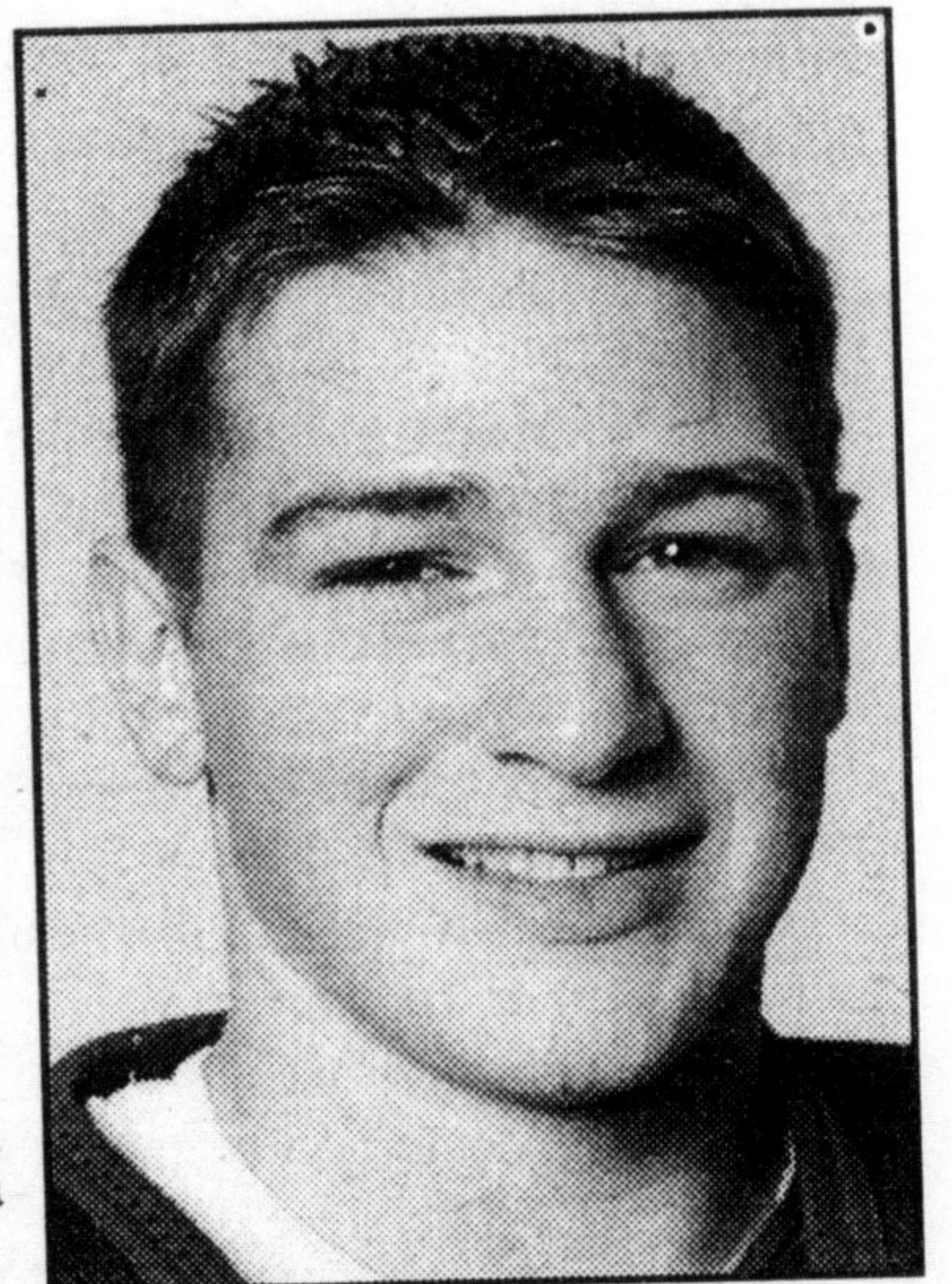
Kyle Amyotte led the way for the Blues with a goal and an assist.

Wenzel came up big all night, particularly downstairs on partial-screen shots, to keep his club within striking distance for the duration of the contest.

One night later the Merchants would enjoy the latest in a series of early-season cakewalks — this time with a 7-1 shellacking of Georgetown.

Holding Milton to one goal in the middle frame and spoiling Daniel Jacques' bid at back-to-back shutouts were the only meagre successes north Halton's other Jr. A club could claim Saturday.

Eby and Mike Wheelihan each scored once and added two assists while Schomogyi notched goals five and six in another strong showing.



Jeff Seeds

Third time not lucky for Milton

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Always the bridesmaid, never the bride. Milton's under-16 girls soccer squad once again came up short in their bid to become League Cup champs — losing the title match for the third time in as many years.

Hopes of breaking this trend were dashed by the Kitchener Spirit, who eked out a 2-0 victory Sunday afternoon at The Soccer Centre in Vaughan.

A pair of second-half goals told the tale in a seesaw battle, which featured precious few scoring opportunities.

"It's getting frustrating, being second best all the time," said coach Rob Romolo, whose club finished second to Kitchener in regular season play as well. "It was a game of inches today (Sunday).

"That and a couple of lucky breaks for Kitchener."

The Magic's skipper suggested that early warning calls against his players — for

what were deemed to be overly aggressive tactics — played a part in the outcome as well.

"That probably had something to do with it, when one team gets a whole slew of warning calls and the other team doesn't," he said.

"But that's how things have gone all season and I wasn't about to change our style for the last game."

Milton surrendered the game-winning

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