



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 30, 1998

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Winterhawk Ryan Black (6) dumps a Matt Binnington (9) rebound past Ajax's goalie in minor atom play at the Beaver Tournament. Milton humbled their guests 8-2.

Older squads still in the hunt

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

There's been no shortage of action so far at the 25th annual Milton Beaver Tournament, which got started Saturday and runs through tonight (Wednesday).

Here's a rundown of how the host teams fared through the opening two days of competition.

Tyke

A lack of scoring juice has been the locals' only weakness in the early going — but nevertheless, it has pushed them out of the championship picture.

Joel Herder was impressive in net during round one play but his efforts were in vain as the Winterhawks dropped a 3-0 decision to the Streetsville Tigers.

Two goals against in the first period told the tale.

Their next outing — against the Brampton Battalion — featured superb defence by Scott Dermott and Andrew Martin, who helped compliment Tariq Patel's crafty cage work.

The combination made for a more exciting finish but didn't quite translate into a reversal of fortunes as the opposition prevailed 2-1.

Sinking Milton's lone tally with 1:07 remaining was Jonathan Baird-Nevis, who fired a low wrister to break their offensive slump.

Minor novice

A heartbreaking finish to round two saw the Karmax sponsored

crew relinquish the equalizer with three minutes to play in a 1-1 stalemate against the Erindale Spitfire.

Milton received stellar goaltending from Jeremy Price while sparkplug Brayden Abraham lit the lamp midway through the contest.

Assisting on the play was Ryan Cheeseman.

This followed a 2-1 loss to the Brampton Battalion, who had all the goals they'd need for victory before the game was six minutes old.

Netminder Ryan Williams did a terrific job keeping the 'Hawks within striking distance but unfortunately his counterpart was just as much of a standout — perhaps even a little more so.

Ryan Mitchell cut into Brampton's lead early in the third with an upstairs wrist shot. He and Abraham had several quality scoring chances down the stretch but were repeatedly turned aside.

Drawing the assist was Riley Duke.

Major novice

Devin Medland was perfect between the pipes and his teammates did the rest in a 4-0 second round whitewash of the Brampton Battalion.

Delivering goals one and two was Michael Hannah — both notched in the middle frame. Third-period scoring by Michael Brown and Jeff Lynch cushioned their lead.

Recording helpers were Justin Bailey, Ryan Bauer and Mac Fillman.

The Winterhawks' scoring window was ajar for only 37 sec-

• see UPSTAGES on page 16

No one finishes like Milton does

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Jr. A Merchants have laid the initial groundwork for a successful Newmarket Showcase title defence — thanks to their phenomenal finishing power.

Milton outscored the opposition 10-0 in the final frame en route to three straight wins in round-robin play and advancement to the quarterfinals yesterday afternoon.

Results were unavailable at press time.

Monday evening they completed a division sweep by pasting the Oakville Blades 6-1, earning a little payback for an overtime loss just a week and a half ago.

John Nadalin and Ken Robins came up with great defensive efforts and helped restrict their southern neighbours to 11 shots on goal.

An equally impressive performance at the other end saw team scoring leader Ed McGrane tally twice — for his second multi-goal game since coming over from steeltown — and captain Kevin O'Flaherty shine with a powerplay marker and pair of assists.

Other singles went to Chris Bahen, Nathan Gillies and Ryan Robichaud. The Merchants sank five unanswered goals, including four in the third period.

Guarding the cage was Jeremy Wenzel, who headed into yesterday's game with a perfect 5-0 record in Newmarket Showcase competition (three wins came last year).

Rounds one and two of the tournament featured morning play for the Merchants. While they were noticeably unin-

spired through major portions of both games, scoring flashes down the stretch were enough to tip the scales in their favour.

Just barely, however, against the Auburn Crunch, who were on top until the last few minutes. Geoff Schomogyi — reunited with early-season linemates O'Flaherty and Gillies — banked the equalizer and game-winner in an eventual 4-3 triumph.

Durham buried

McGrane and Robins were the other marksmen while Gillies amassed three assists.

Two of the three goals against goaltender Daniel Jacques were on the powerplay.

Milton carried the lowly Durham Huskies through two periods before burying them 6-2.

Denting the twine were Gillies, McGrane, Robins, Mark Beisel, Ryan Eby and Mike Wheelihan.

Wenzel didn't see a whole lot of quality shots but did make a brilliant diving glove save in the opening frame.

If victorious yesterday, the Merchants will play in this afternoon's semifinals at 3:30 p.m. The championship tilt is slated for tonight at 7:30 p.m.

Marathon training

The Running Company of Oakville begins its annual 'Marathon and Half-Marathon' training program on January 14. The Thursday evening course runs for 17 weeks.

Also available is a nine-week beginners class, held Saturday mornings starting January 23, as well as a 10-kilometre clinic which gets underway in March.

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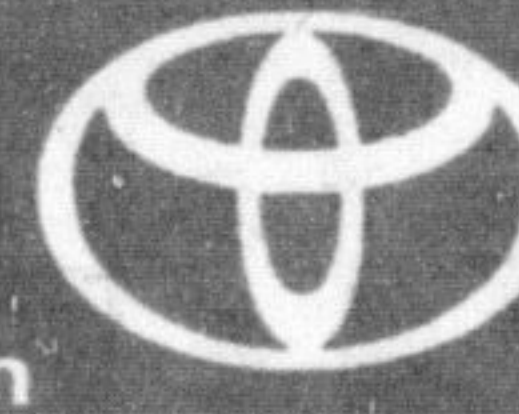
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