Shorthanded bantams battle back

Milton's AA major bantams were short on goals and players, but still managed to breathe new life into their round two OMHA series with Orangeville.

Chris Dumencu's first-period tally stood up as the winner in Monday's 1-0 shutout victory that put the Winterhawks back in the best-of-five showdown.

The Primary Electric sponsored team staved off elimination despite missing a handful of regulars, due to illness and injury.

They now trail two games to one heading into tonight's clash at John Tonelli Sports Centre.

A 29-save masterpiece earned Chris Wasilkowsky the goose egg while robust penalty killing had a hand in the win as well.

Making the play on the lone goal was Evan Jeans, who took a hard check along the boards but was still able to dump out a lead pass. It sent Dumencu and Kevin Sales in on a 2-on-1 rush that proved successful.

Convincing win

Milton's A minor atoms improved to .500 in Tri County playoff action with a 4-1 win over the Arthur Aces last Friday.

Paul Herder was sharp in net while his teammates managed three unanswered goals over the final two frames to seal the deal.

Superior skating and positional play earned them the victory, which pushed them to 2-1-2.

The game-winning tally came midway through

Rep Hockey

the second period, by way of a bottom shelf wire from Jeremy Martin.

Daniel LaFontaine and Jeff Lowe led offensively with a goal and an assist each. Also denting the twine vas Conor Ferguson, who added a second insurance marker with just 11 seconds left to play.

Three days earlier the Herman Miller sponsored crew's scoring juice ran dry in a 2-1 loss to the Brampton Battalion.

Milton was blanked over the last two periods.

Devon Plater made some key saves to keep the locals within striking distance. Burying the biscuit was Ferguson, with help from Craig Howse.

Cakewalk for 'Hawks

The A minor peewees extended their Tri County winning streak to three games with a 9-1 annihilation of Arthur Saturday.

Steve Ellison and Chris Hill led the attack with three goals each while Jake Madansky, Phil Foley and Seth Ferguson added to the onslaught with single markers.

Balance was as evident as ferocity in the blowout, with each forward unit earning a minimum of six points while the blueline combined for seven.

Amassing three assists was Jason Bouwman,

with two each for Ferguson, Kyle Scott, Greg Pepper and Corey Whyte.

Single helpers went to Ellison, Foley, Madansky, Nole Coutrouzas, Laura Lighthall, Kyle Thomas and Sam Tomlinson.

Mark Strazdins was solid between the pipes.

Serious slump

Goals have been in short supply for Milton's A minor novices, who dropped their last three Tri County playoff bouts.

Taylor Prestidge and Lucas Reid have shown strongly between the pipes to keep things mighty close — but in each case their crafty cage work has been in vain.

Elora, Erin and Hespeler have all managed to upstage them in 2-1, 4-2 and 3-1 decisions respectively. Tallying twice during this recent rut was Kris Delnin while Ryan Cochrane and Eric Gottwald chipped in singles.

All knotted up

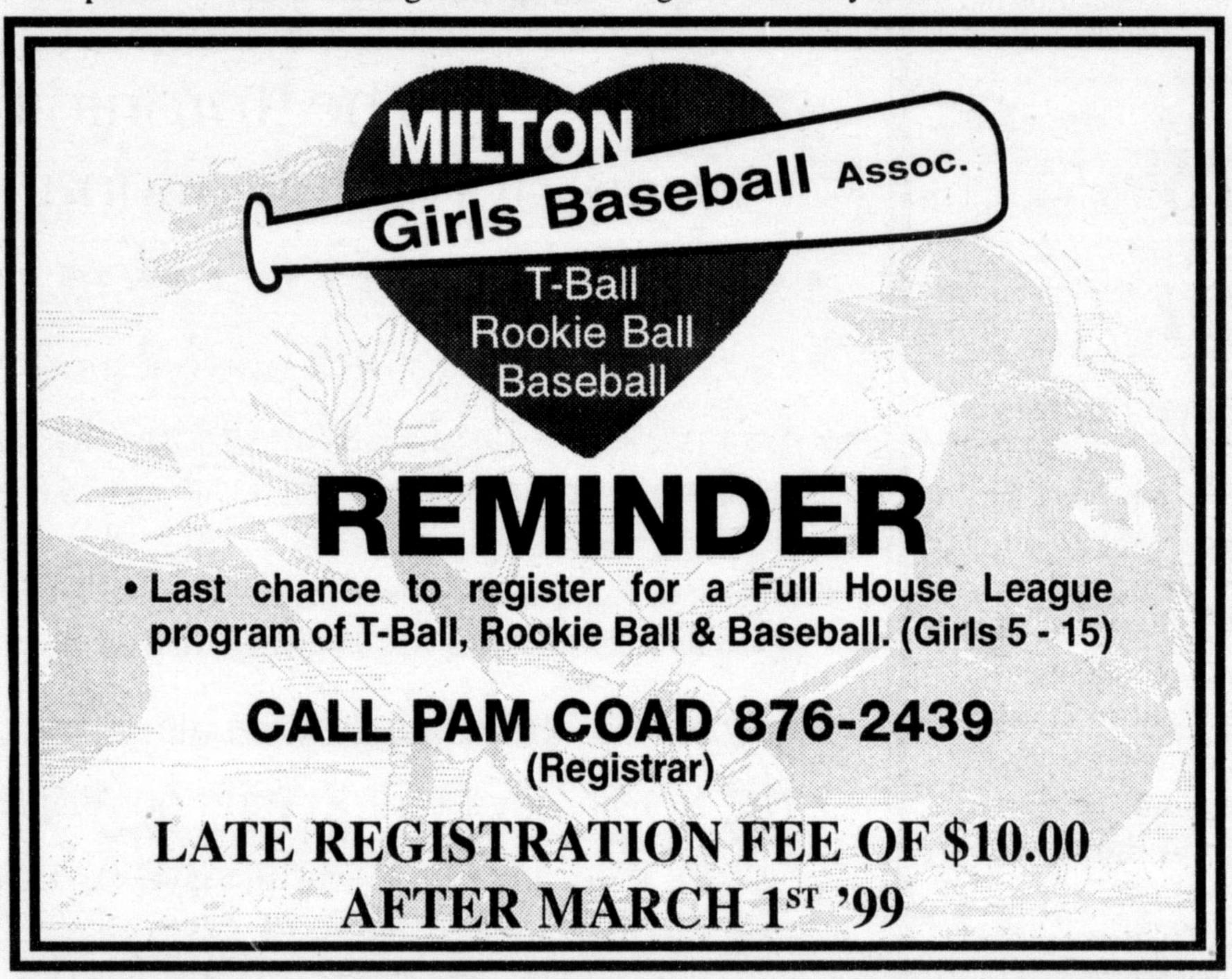
Low-scoring, tight-checking hockey has been the story for Halton's AAA novices, who sit all tied up at two wins apiece with Guelph in their best-of-five series.

The Hurricanes drew first blood with a 1-0 squeaker — thanks to David Dunbar's lone tally — before dropping games two and three by scores of 3-2 and 2-1. They fought off elimination by eking out a 2-1 decision, this time with Josh Dewar and Corey Syvret denting the twine.

Merchants finish very well

• from WATCH on page 22

Merchant notes: Ed McGrane, Geoff Schomogyi and Kevin O'Flaherty all ended the regular season with more than 100 points — thus recording the first century mark hat-trick in club history ...
Tuesday's win was the team's first playoff shutout since April 20, 1997 versus Rayside Balfour ... Prior to last night, Milton sported a nine-game winning streak against the Kilty Bees.



MILTON MINOR HOCKEY

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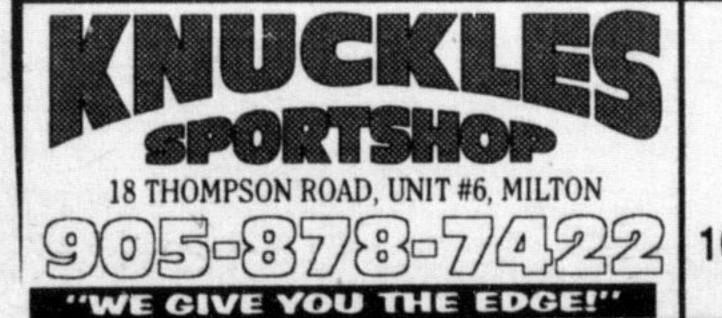
Tuesday, March 2 and Thursday March 4 7-9 p.m.

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. 1	Vins	Losses	Ties	Points
Gus Mowbray	3	0	0	6
Avanti Auto	2	0	1	5
Goodlife Fitness	2	1	0	4
Kentucky Fried Chicken	0	2	1	1
Culligan	0	. 2	1	1
Ross Dixon Fin.	0	2	1	1

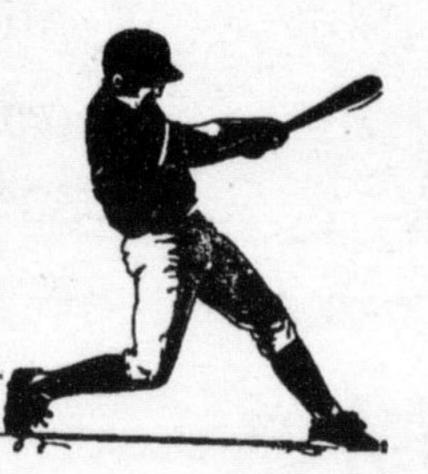


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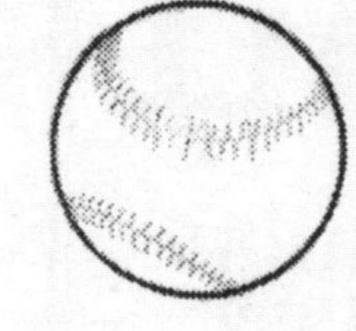
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Success coming quickly

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Jeff Dolby has already conquered the world of technology, so now he's stretching his scope and shooting for a little sports success.

A recent engineering graduate of Hamilton's Mohawk College, the 22-year-old Miltonian is showing strongly in his rookie campaign of Yokohama Winter Rally car racing.

He acts as the navigator for driver Frank de Kat of Dundas.

The duo made a remarkable debut last month in Quebec, where they secured second-place honours in the novice class at the 1999 season opener.

This despite mechanical trouble which caused them to take a wrong turn near the end of the 450-kilometre course and miss a handful of check points.

Said Dolby, "Rally racing isn't based so much on speed, but strategy and consistency. You get a map and list of instructions before the event which tells you exactly when you should reach each check point.

"If you arrive at that time you get zero, but points are deducted if you arrive early or late. Without mechanical problems, we may well have won."

Maintaining an even keel throughout such long races, which usually last upwards of eight hours, can be a daunting task. Particularly so when driving is done over icy terrain and often through forests.

"It's very easy to lose focus in the later stages of a race, especially during the ones that are held at night," said Dolby.

"I spent a lot of that first event trying to fix the odometer, which took away from our concentration."

Both car and team were at peak efficiency for race two in Peterborough. As a result, they upstaged all challengers and captured the title.

The duo now sit atop the division with three events remaining in the series. Their next challenge comes this weekend at the provincial championship in Bancroft.

Dolby is a newcomer to the sport only from a competitive standpoint. He's been a volunteer organizer at events for years and received plenty of advice from veteran Ross Wood of Milton, who recently won his fourth provincial crown.

"Being able to draw on his experience has really benefited me," said the young racer. "Being the navigator, I thought I might get a little car sick the first few times out there but I've been okay.

"You see a lot of guys out there downing Gravol the whole way. Fortunately, that's not the case with me."

