



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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FRIDAY APRIL 2, 1999

Sends UNH to Frozen Four

Haydar delivers winner in overtime

Darren "Mini" Haydar has been a regular contributor and frequent standout for the University of New Hampshire this season.

Saturday night in Worcester, Maine the electrifying right winger added team hero to his ever-growing portfolio — delivering an overtime winner to defeat Michigan 2-1 and send his Wildcats to the NCAA's Frozen Four in Anaheim.

His timely tally came 3:16 into the extra session. Charging to the right post, the nation's top scoring freshman knocked a loose puck through Michigan goaltender Josh Blackburn's pads and into the far corner.

Assisting on the play was nation points leader Jason Krog, whom Haydar has skated with since the third week of the season.

"Blackburn is a great goalie. You can't expect to put it by him on every shot," said the former Milton Merchants star, who has 30 goals this year.

"I was just lucky to put it by him on that shot."

Revenge is sweet

Haydar's heroics not only put UNH in the national semifinals for the second time in as many years but served as revenge against the Wolverines — who blanked them 4-0 in last year's Frozen Four semis.

UNH, which led Hockey East in both offence and defence this season, neutralized a Michigan attack that ran roughshod over Denver one night earlier.

The victory was the latest in a series of highlights for the local sharpshooter, who made it on to the NHL draft list this winter and piqued the interest of such teams as the San Jose Sharks and New York Rangers.

He was recently named Hockey East's Rookie of the Year and was appointed to both Hockey East's All-Rookie Team and Second Team All-Stars.

Haydar finished the regular season with 27 goals and 23 assists in 34 games.



Darren Haydar added yet another chapter to his illustrious hockey career Saturday by scoring the overtime winner and sending the University of New Hampshire to the Frozen Four in Anaheim.

It's easy to forget about the game when your blood boils

If you think about it, there is no place for fighting and other violence in hockey. The problem is that at the precise time it's about to take place there's no time to think about it.

So, it happens, and it happens a lot.

Recently, it has come to the forefront in the Milton Midget Winterhawks OMHA finals. Following the

first two games, there were major incidents involving fans, players, coaches and referees (peacemakers) that got out of control. There was fighting, pushing, and even stick-swinging.

This isn't a first for a Milton finalist at the midget age group. In recent years, Milton got involved in a

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Merchants heading to finals after semis win

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Merchants' success isn't coming with ease, finesse or even certainty — but the fact remains that it is coming.

In a playoff run that has been riddled with attacks of the flu and the constant overshadowing by last year's champions, Marty Williamson's '98/99 charges continue to survive and are now within striking distance of a third straight league title triumph.

Standing in the way of a three-peat is Bramalea, who took the conference crown away from them less than two weeks ago and have yet to lose a home playoff game.

Further adding to Milton's challenge is the possible return of Blues Mike Cammalleri and John Dibatista, who were both sidelined with injuries for the previous clash but have reportedly been taking practice in recent weeks and could be back for the return engagement.

"Hey, do you know who we are? We're the Milton Merchants. We're not afraid of two players. They're not going to stop us," voiced defenceman David Csumrik.

His comments, perhaps born of re-ignited confidence, came Wednesday at Memorial Arena following the club's semifinal round toppling of the East Conference's Collingwood Blues.

Milton clinched game six and the series — which included a mini marathon of four games in four

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