



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

meet me at

500 Laurier 878-2442

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1999

Opposition is still jinxed in the opener

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Opening night-mares continue to haunt visitors who dare enter Memorial Arena.

The Jr. A Merchants, for a third time in as many years, kicked off the regular season by making things painful and distressing for their guests.

Milton's victims this fall were the mildly improved but still offensively challenged Mississauga Chargers — who were whitewashed 7-0 Friday.

Victory for the local club — who in their past three home openers combined have scored 10 times as many goals as the competition (30 for, three against) — came in front of a rather sparse, silent crowd.

The blowout was highlighted by an impressive 33-save shutout performance by diminutive goaltender Luc Lamothe and a balanced attack that saw seven players bury the biscuit.

Eby looks good

Veteran Ryan Eby, a strong candidate to wear the captain's 'C' this year, led with a goal and two assists while newcomers Elliot Altberg, Phil Barski, Ian Malcolm, Rob Martin, Jeff Petherick and Richard Peverley were the other marksmen.

Milton tallied twice in each of the first two periods and then added insult to injury with three more in the final frame, including a shorthanded breakaway marker by Malcolm with five minutes remaining.

A 6-for-6 penalty killing campaign was another bright spot on the night. Helping neutralize the visitors' powerplay was team leader Chad Blundy. Also in line to be captain, he dropped back to the point for game one as rearguards Ken Robins and Mike Clarke were out nursing inflamed joints and a pulled groin respectively.

Coach likes Sunday game

Skipper Marty Williamson was pleased with the decisive win — but not as much so as with his team's showing two nights later at Mississauga's Iceland Arena.

There they cranked it up a notch and thoroughly dismantled the North Conference Collingwood Blues 8-2 in Prospect Weekend play.

"They're supposed to be one of the top teams in that division and we took them apart," said the Milton bench boss. "We showed a lot of grit, won most of the battles and made some nice goals."

All this despite going with a shortened



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Merchant players struggle for position in front of the Collingwood Blues' cage — which is now being tended by former teammate Jeremy Wenzel — in Prospect Weekend play Sunday. Milton won the game 8-2.

pipes, making two dozen saves. Goals against him came two-and-a-half minutes apart in the middle stanza.

Milton went 93:07 minutes without giving up a goal this weekend while their penalty killers went 11-for-12.

Merchant notes: Ryan Stewart has been sent to the Thornhill Rattlers, who dealt checker James Coleman to Milton earlier this summer ... Defenceman David Csumrik is still skating for the OHL's North Bay Centennials. Whether or not he sticks with the team should be decided this coming week ... Milton was in Buffalo last night and is back at Memorial Arena Friday to host the Brampton Capitals.

lineup — after forward Peverley took a puck off his leg during warm-up and joined the already sidelined Clarke and Robins — and having to face former teammate Jeremy Wenzel.

The crafty cager was steady through the early going but eventually withered and allowed four unanswered goals in the third, the last three while his cohorts were shorthanded.

Barski beats him

Barski beat him through the five-hole and on a wraparound for the first multi-goal effort of the season while chipping in singles were Blundy, Malcolm, Martin, Ryan Carrigan, Mike Wheelihan and big defenceman Ryan Rasmussen — picked up late last week from the St. Mike's Majors.

Altberg amassed three assists, as did Eby and Wheelihan.

Joel Cameron stood tall between the



TOYOTA SIENNA 2000

TOYOTA'S SHARPEST DEALS



MSRP \$28,200

Lease from **\$363** + taxes
ONLY \$3500. DOWN

FEATURES:

- Rear Seat 50/50 Split Bench Adjustments, Recline, Foldable & Removable
- AM/FM Cassette CD, 4-Speakers, Fixed Mast Antenna
- Cruise Control •Dual Air Conditioning



GEORGETOWN TOYOTA SALES

15 MOUNTAINVIEW RD. N., 877-2296 Tor. 874-4276

WEBSITE at www.haltonhills.com/toyota or E-MAIL at toyota@aztec-net.com

*Based on a 48 mos. walkaway lease. First payment & security deposit due on delivery. Based on 96,000 kms. Additional charge of \$0.10 if applicable on Toyota Sienna.