



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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FRIDAY OCTOBER 1, 1999

✓ Milton competitors make a mark in BC



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Calvin and Janice Snow led a group of local athletes at the recent Ironman Canada in Pentiction, BC. All 10 Miltonians who participated were able to complete the grueling course.

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

When it comes to going the distance, very few communities measure up to Milton.

Ten local racers — representing one of the largest groups for any town this size, anywhere in the country — pushed themselves to the limit at Ironman Canada August 29.

Amid picturesque surroundings in Pentiction, British Columbia the group — who train regularly with both the Milton Runners and Milton Masters Swim Club — battled a grueling 3.8 kilometre swim, 180 kilometre bike ride and 42.2 kilometre

run course.

All 10 managed to complete the journey, each playing a role in an ambitious and successful sports initiative.

"For Milton to have this many competitors at this type of event is amazing," remarked Calvin Snow, the local team's top finisher with a time of 11:14:50 for 343rd place out of 1,775 athletes from 65 countries. "Outside Pentiction, there's no other area that had this kind of representation."

Milton had sent competitors to the event before — but never so many. The endeavour began around Labour Day '98, when

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Merchant wins pile up

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

And the wins just keep on coming.

The Merchants pushed their season-opening undefeated streak to six games at Memorial Arena Wednesday, toppling the Oakville Blades 8-3.

Now front-runners in the West Conference, Milton came out extremely flat and allowed 17 shots against them in period one. But Luc Lamothe turned back every one of those — several with astounding acrobatics — and weathered the storm until his cohorts could get their act together.

When they did, five goals were amassed within a 15-minute span in the second stanza to quash what initially looked to be the first suspenseful evening for the Merchants.

From there, the teams traded two goals each in the final frame and demonstrated that — despite sweeping player changes on both sides — the bad blood between them still exists.

Dan DeLong and Rob Martin squared off with Blades Aaron Coles and Eugene Repa respectively in the first two stand up fights of the year.

The spirited slugfests provided about the

only flashes of excitement in a game that was otherwise largely uneventful.

Elliot Altberg enjoyed the lion's share of the scoring pie with a handful of points, including three goals. Centering the most productive forward unit so far, with fellow newcomer Phil Barski and veteran Mike Wheelihan, his hat-trick was the fourth in as many games delivered by the Merchants.

Wheelihan, Mark Beisel and Jeff Petherick did so previously.

Barski had a season high four assists while Wheelihan scored once and helped set up Altberg's final marker.

Ian Malcolm tallied twice for his first multi-goal game. Also denting the twine were Beisel and Martin.

Merchant notes: David Dermo, Milton's college advisor, had a hole-in-one at a charity golf tournament for the Children's Wish Foundation September 23 at London's Fox Glen. He used a four iron to sink a 159-yard shot on the 11th hole ... David Csumrik has made the North Bay Centennials. He scored a powerplay goal in their home opening loss to Erie ... Defenceman Ken Robins continues to suffer from inflamed joints and is now back on the disabled list ... The Merchants' only weekend game is tonight in Bramalea. Game time is 7:45 p.m.

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