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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Driver Brad Corcoran (left) and pit crew chief Dave Robertson display the season series points race title they won recently at MoSport.

## Milton auto racer fires on all cylinders this season

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Finally, it all came together for Brad Corcoran.

The Milton auto racer, who's been battling in the late models division for about a decade now, recently wrapped up a breakthrough season.

His success — which should pave the way to bigger and better things, namely a future in CASCAR — came on two fronts.

First and foremost was a season series points race victory at Bowmanville's MoSport. Corcoran won a career high four feature races, of a possible 13, and finished in the top three every weekend — with the exception of the last, when he had his only crash of the year and gave up some breathing room between himself and the runner-up.

"It's really competitive. You can't miss a night without losing ground," said the 28-year-old, who

this year drove a Monte Carlo.

"I'd never been able to put a whole season together before. It was great. Everything went picture perfect."

Aided by a skilled pit crew run by fellow Miltonian Dave Robertson, Corcoran also gained exposure at newly-opened Kawartha (near Peterborough) — which challenges racers with a 24 degree banked oval.

The local driver grabbed the attention of peers and prospective sponsors by taking the checkered flag in the track's inaugural race six weeks ago.

Recalled Corcoran, "There was a big wreck on the very first lap. I deked around it and from there it was smooth sailing. There was a big field and lots of excitement for that first race. It was great to win it."

Success would continue to shine his way — as he won the next two feature races as well. With only six

weekends this year at a season-shortened Kawartha — Corcoran would surely have captured the points race title had one been available for the taking.

The Milton racing team's next challenge, now that the season is over, will be to secure serious sponsorship for next year. That is, if they hope to make the jump to CASCAR.

Right now they receive help from Ellis Race Cars, Quaker State, Johnny's Auto Centre and UAP — but don't have that one major financial backer necessary to get to the next level.

"We've heard different figures about CASCAR. Some say it takes \$150,000 to race it and others say it's \$300,000," explained Robertson.

"We want to get in about five races next year, but that takes money. Any way you look at it, racing isn't cheap."

## Second overtime defeat in as many road trips for Merchants

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Sudden death has been living up to its name — as least for the Merchants.

For the second time in six nights Saturday, Milton was vanquished in overtime. Their 4-3 loss — number two in a row on the road — came against Brampton, who've been struggling so far this season but remain tough to beat in front of the hometown crowd.

The West Conference leaders did make it somewhat easy for them, heading into the game minus four regulars and delivering a rather lethargic performance.

"We played pretty bad," said team owner Brad Grant. "It was probably our worst outing this season. However, it was our fourth game of the week and the guys were tired."

The 9-2 Merchants — who before last night were four points ahead of Georgetown and Hamilton — were less than half a minute away from earning their first season stalemate when Capitals' Brandon Dawe buried his second of the night past Luc Lamothe.

Milton's goalie faced his stiffest test to date, kicking out 46 shots including nearly two dozen in the second stanza. Counterpart Danny Gould saw only about half as much work.

He was beaten once in each regulation period. Scoring were Richard Peverley, Ryan Rasmussen and Ian Malcolm — who finished the week off with eight goals and now leads the team with 13.

Veteran Mike Wheelihan drew two assists while single helpers went to Rob Martin, Jeff Petherick and

• see **MERCHANTS** on page 23

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