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Rally to victory

Ken Robins can hardly be considered a scoring threat.

And the events of this past weekend did little, if anything, to change that thinking.

Nevertheless, Milton's stay-at-home defenceman delivered a couple of key goals in as many games and helped guide his club to two narrow victories and keep it firmly entrenched atop the Ontario Provincial Jr. A League's West Conference.

At Memorial Arena Friday, he dumped in a point shot that ricocheted off the skate of an opponent and fooled Buffalo's Kevin Kirk. The third-period effort was by far the ugliest this year, but also one of the most pivotal.

The Merchants — up to that point — had been playing some of their worst hockey of the season and this fluke goal sparked a reversal of fortunes that saw them rally from three goals down to shade the lowly Lightning 6-5.

Two nights later in Oakville, Robins would continue his offensive contributions by jumping into the rush — extremely uncharacteristic of the steady blueliner — and deposit a cross-ice pass from leading scorer Phil Barski.

It came with just a few minutes remaining and clinched a second straight comeback for the division front-runners, who relied heavily on penalty killing and goaltending to triumph 3-1.

Cager Luc Lamothe turned aside about two dozen shots including a few beauties in the opening frame, one with a dynamite glove save, in posting the win Sunday.

Milton's other goals that evening came from top sniper Ian Malcolm and midget call-up Mac Faulkner, who potted the winner on a goal-mouth scramble midway through the third.

Dan DeLong provided the heroics Friday. The gritty winger first set up Richard Peverley's tying tally and then used a stretch shot to beat Kirk for the winner with 2:31 to go.

Milton's rally featured four unanswered goals on nearly two dozen shots. Kirk was challenged a total of 54 times while Merchant Joel Cameron saw less than half that amount of work.

While it would be easy to hang the club's horrible showing on the shoulders of the blueline corp — who in all honesty were completely outclassed and outthrustled by their cross-border competition — the truth is none of the local players offered anything close to an acceptable work ethic.

Barski, Elliot Altberg and Rob Martin were the other scorers.

Referee Robert Padt put his whistle away for the evening and assessed no penalties to either team Friday.

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