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FRIDAY NOVEMBER 12, 1999

Merchants losing hold on top spot in division By STEVE LeBLANC The Champion

For more than three years now the Merchants have had a bird's eye view of the Ontario Provincial Jr. A League's West Conference.

But if things don't turn around — and awfully soon — they can expect an eviction from the division penthouse.

Milton's hold on first place was weakened further during a trip to Mississauga's Iceland Arena Tuesday. Offering little in the way of skating or intensity, they were edged 3-2.

"After Saturday, I was hoping for a good effort or at least something medium," remarked frustrated head coach Marty Williamson, whose club has lost five of its last seven games. "This was just awful. These guys have got to start showing some character."

Despite registering over three dozen shots, the visitors displayed hardly any creativity up front and no conviction on their scoring chances.

About the only things more lackluster were their skating and work along the boards.

Goaltender Luc Lamothe was sharp for much of the night, but gave up two late goals including a

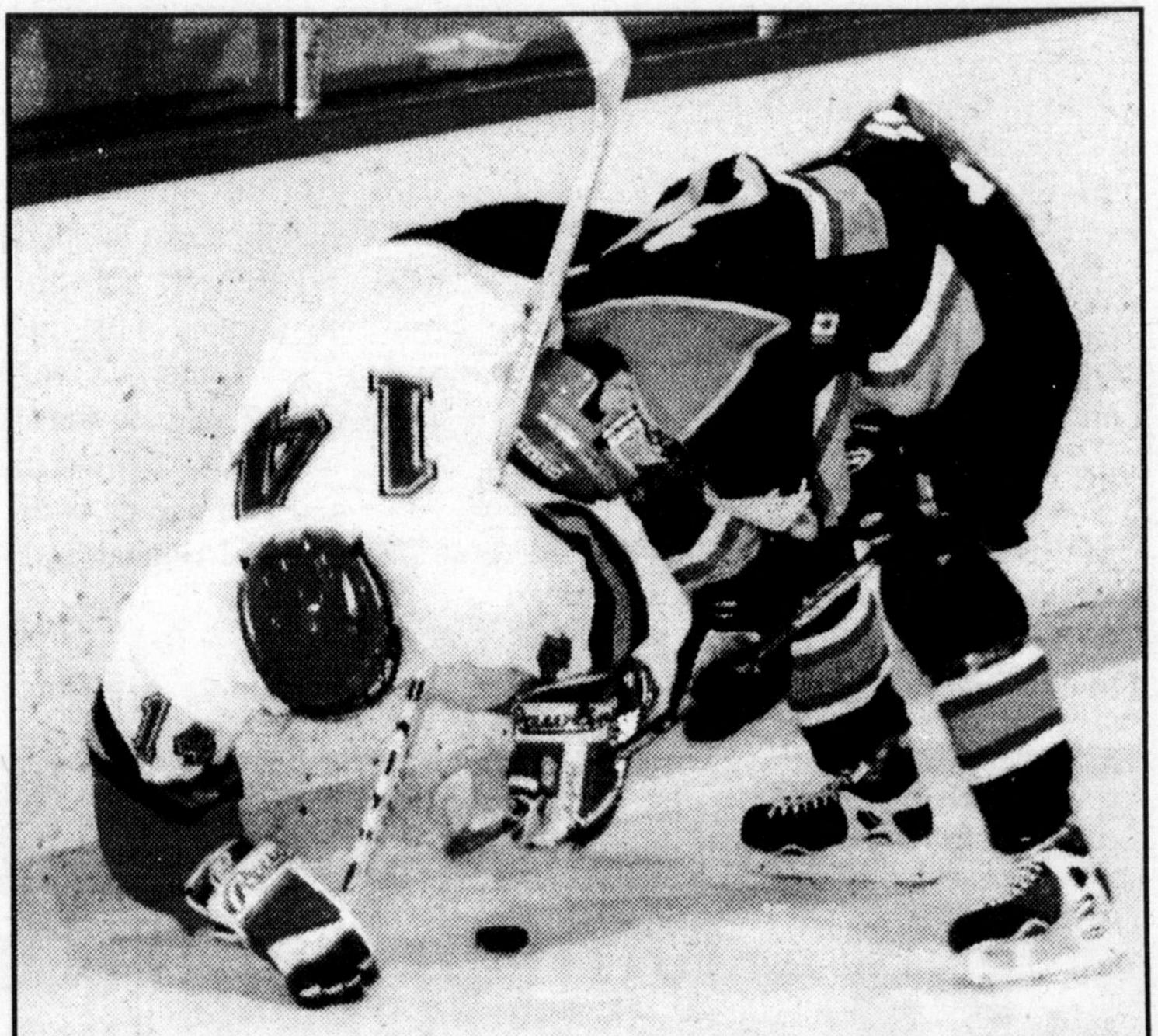


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Merchant Chad Blundy upends Mississauga's Williams Hinks (14) Tuesday at Iceland Arena. Milton lost 3-2.

bit of a softie on the doorstep for team a brief lead eight minutes into the game winner with five minutes the final frame — catching opposremaining.

provided the heroics for his team while also scoring were Waylon Karr and Andrew Schembri. Teammate Mike Oliveira assisted on all three tallies.

Milton's Phil Barski gave his

ing goalie David Cann slightly out Young Charger Jason Francis of position and stabbing the puck in from behind the net.

Dan DeLong potted the other goal midway through the second, when he and Rob Martin found themselves all alone in front of see MERCHANTS on page 23

onapely success

Todd Belford was one of four local bodybuilders who competed at Saturday's McKenzie Challenge at the nearby Meadowvale Theatre. Here he demonstrates one of the poses that helped him take third place in the middleweight division while brother Mike was close behind for fourth. Meanwhile, Milton's Scott Mills handily won the lightweight class -- by scoring all of the first-place votes by the judges' panel -- and his brother Stuart was sixth among the middleweights.

Squash Club open house

The Milton Squash Club will host its annual open house tomorrow afternoon at the Optimist Centre on Commercial Street.

will be available for play ly five' ladder and quarand refreshments will be terly tournaments. served from noon to 3

Three refurbished courts games, a monthly 'friend- McCusker at 875-3050.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

For more information, call Terry Stephenson at The club holds weekly 878-5470 or Mike

Drury wins exhibition game

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Mustangs were severely out chanced and out hustled though barely outdone by E.C. Drury last Friday.

Credit Brett McClure with the respectable finish. Left to fend for himself, the veteran netminder weathered one storm after another throughout the exhibition game at Memorial Arena.

His 34 saves, quite a lot in the time restrictive high school hockey scene, allowed Milton District to stay within striking distance the entire afternoon and only lose 4-3.

Spartans Josh Dixon, Trevor two and three, especially when it goal, on a low wrister.

tioning for the number one goalie spot and working a period each by contrast faced under a dozen shots combined in the first crosstown clash of the season.

Having already played and beaten Burlington's Assumption Crusaders, Drury looked a lot less rusty than their local rivals and delivered a solid performance over-

Conversely, MD had a number of benched players in the opening frame — punishment for missing practice — and thus enjoyed a slow start. But their efforts over periods

Saliba and Derick Scott — all audi- came to passing and intensity, really weren't anymore impressive.

> Matt Brown, Jed Cosby and Luke Hendrie all had a goal and an assist for the victors while also scoring was Kevin Sales. Brown potted the game winner with eight minutes left to go, tucking in a backhand under McClure.

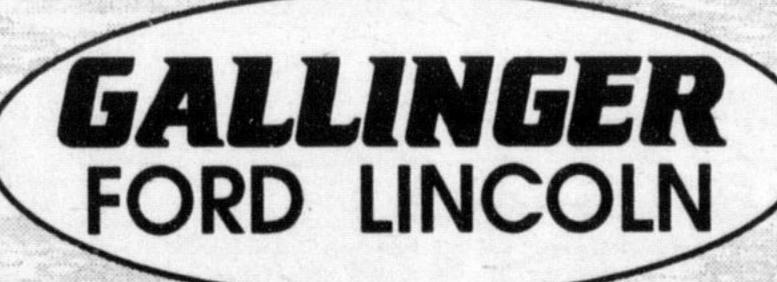
The Mustangs were led offensively by Andrew Hryciw. He tallied twice, scoring on a rising slapshot early in the middle stanza giving his team a short-lived lead — and again with a low shot in close to even the count at 3-3.

Josh Rogers potted the other

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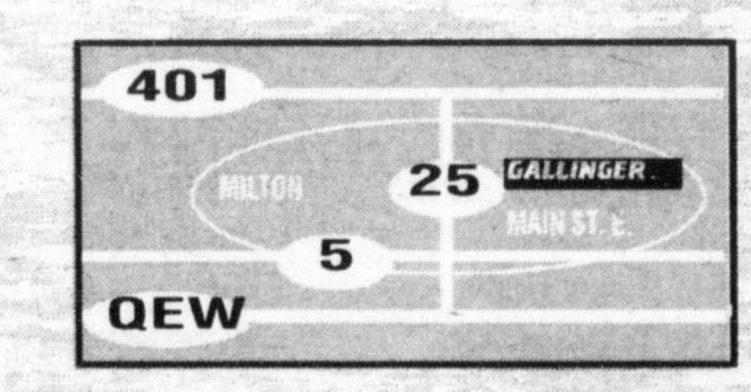


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