

# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY NOVEMBER 26, 1999

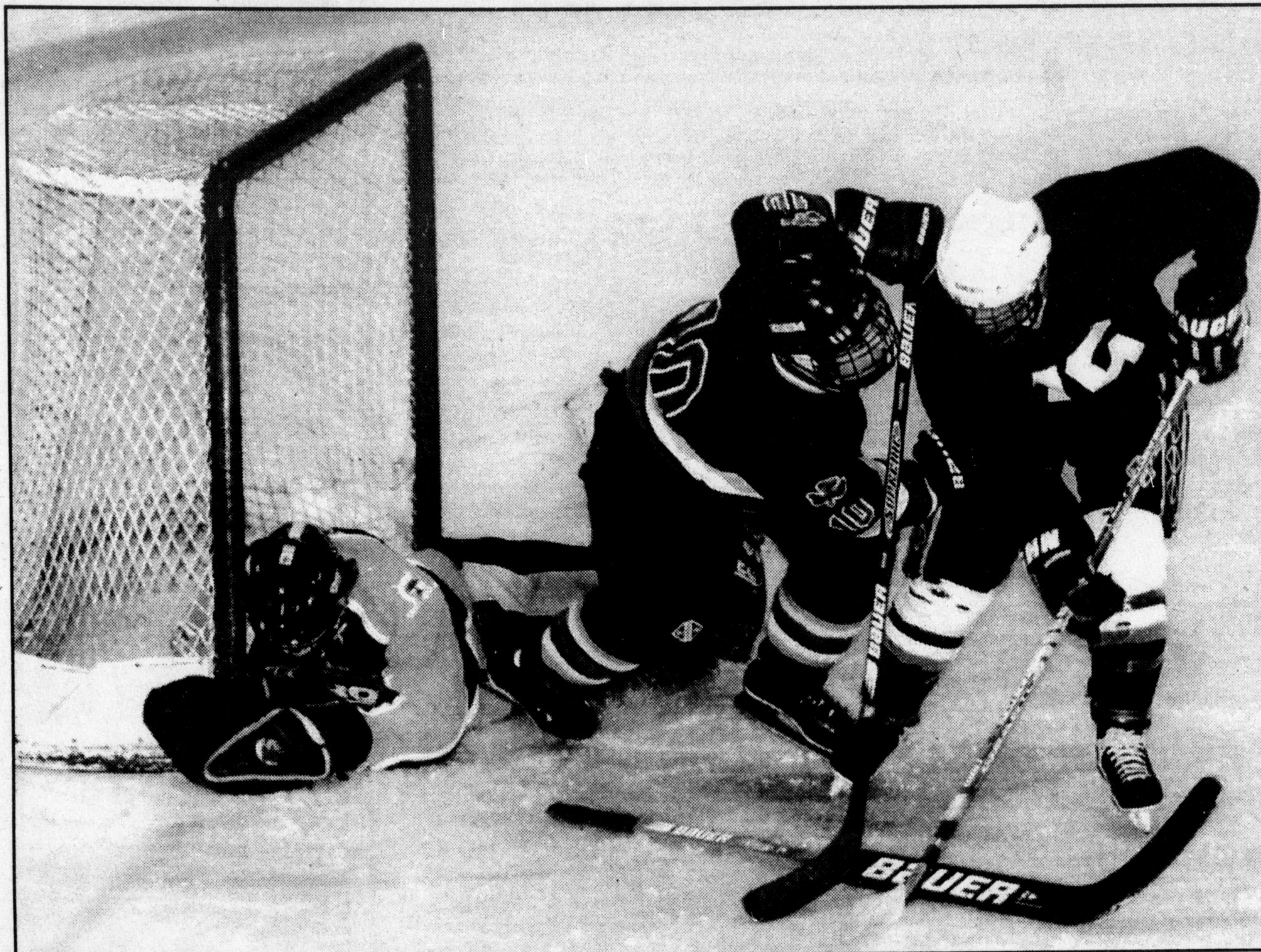


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## The puck stops here

E.C. Drury's Josh Dixon freezes the puck while one of his teammates struggles with a Notre Dame Irish opponent in season opening play at Memorial Monday. The Spartans were edged 5-4.

## Mustangs edge Aces in opener

By STEVE LeBLANC

*The Champion*

Exhibition victory wasn't in the cards for the Milton District Mustangs.

But Tuesday's regular season opener was a different story — as they drew the high hand and trimmed the Aldershot Aces 2-1.

Within the friendly confines of Memorial Arena, MD struck early in periods one and two.

Brent Smith — who centres the first line — put them on the scoreboard just over a minute into the afternoon clash.

Catching the visiting goalie way out of position, he deposited a bottom shelf shot to capitalize on the team's first scoring opportunity.

Then Jon Sprenger needed a mere six seconds of the middle stanza to deliver the game winner — using a nifty bit of puck handling to get past the defense and sink a low backhand.

Each sniper assisted on the other's tally.

Aldershot would cut the lead in half moments later, but pull no closer as netminder Brett McClure showed strongly between the pipes and bailed his blueline out a few times down the stretch.

The veteran cager made a couple of impressive diving saves and turned aside another shot with his blocker in the dying minutes of play to persevere his club's slim lead. Overall he was challenged 19 times.

Meanwhile, Milton District recorded 17 shots and offered a punchless powerplay throughout the game — especially in the third period when they had a two-man advantage but managed just a single shot.

Their efforts while shorthanded were much more inspired. Zak MacKay, Jeff MacLeod and Shawn McConnell in particular came through with a crucial penalty kill in the late going.

Monday, E.C. Drury was also involved in a tightly contested home opening encounter — but came up with the short end of the stick, losing to Notre Dame 5-4. Paul Pento tallied twice while singles went to Luc Hendrie and Kaegen Sherriff.

## Merchant rookie puts brakes on overtime winless skid

By STEVE LeBLANC

*The Champion*

The Merchants kept one streak going by bringing another to a halt at Memorial Arena Wednesday.

Heading into battle against rebuilding Bramalea, Milton was winless in all four of its overtime encounters this year.

But Rookie Richard Peverley put an end to that — sinking a huge rebound past star goaltender Nathan Marsters with only four seconds

left in sudden death to beat the Blues 2-1.

Assisting on the play was Ian Malcolm.

The victory extended the team's undefeated run to four games — their longest since opening the season with seven straight wins.

Coupled with Monday's 4-4 stalemate in Hamilton, Milton (16-4-1-3) remained one point back of the first place Georgetown Raiders as of last night.

This week's close contests further illustrated how nothing is coming easy these days for the

Merchants. Coach Marty Williamson said his club's lack of dominance has a lot to do with having so many new players and — subsequently — only part of the chemistry that was enjoyed at this point last year.

But he added the Ontario Provincial Jr. A League's West Conference is also more competitive this season — and that his current charges are experiencing more adversity because of it.

"Maybe in the long run it'll help us," remarked Williamson.

The Merchants delivered an inspiring performance in the overtime triumph — complete with fierce fore checking and dynamite goaltending by Joel Cameron.

Marsters was even more impressive at the opposite end and showed just why several top contenders are champing at the bit to acquire him for the playoffs.

Milton's Ryan Eby broke a scoreless game with about six minutes to go in the second peri-

• see OVERTIME on page 32

CAROLE MURRAY'S SWIM ACADEMY

& SWIM BOUTIQUE

Now accepting registrations for...  
WINTER & SPRING SESSIONS STARTING JAN. 3, 2000

Private - 2/semi 3/semi

Monday to Saturday 9 am - 9 pm

Life saving 1-2-3

Bronze Medallion and Bronze Cross - Monday pm

878-9747 250 Bronte St. S. Milton

Boutique  
Now featuring...  
"Elegant but  
Affordable"  
Elita Lingerie  
by Christina

MILLENNIUM  
SUITS HAVE  
ARRIVED!

