Discourse to the test to a contract of the second

This Saturday's Day of Champions at Milton Memorial Arena promises great action for all local hockey fans.



Haydar's Wildcats beat in semifinals

Darren Haydar's New Hampshire Wildcats had their conference championship run halted by an ill-timed scoring lapse and a little luck of the Irish Friday.

Against local favourite and shamrocktotting Boston College, UNH squandered an initial lead and eventual fell 2-1 in their Hockey East semifinal showdown at the Fleet Center.

Haydar had a couple of key scoring chances — his first deemed to have been kicked in while the second was turned aside with a fantastic pad save by opposing cager Scott Clemmensen inside the final minute of play.

Despite the loss, UNH could still make a return trip to the national finals.

As one of the top seeds nationally all year long, they've now secured an at-large bid to the regional playdowns in Minnesota.

They'll face Niagara Friday, with the winner squaring off against North Dakota the following day for a berth to the NCAA's Frozen Four.

Milton's sharp shooting right winger has been named a second team all-star in Hockey East and was recently picked the fan favourite by spectators at New Hampshire.

Meanwhile, fellow Merchant graduate Kevin O'Flaherty ended his rookie season in the NCAA Thursday — as his Clarkson Golden Knights were doubled by Cornell 4-2 in ECAC preliminary action.

They outshot their division rivals 40-26 but gave up four unanswered goals—three within a shaky second period—en route to defeat.

Twin terrors

Ball State University's boys baseball team opened the home half of regular season play with a double-header sweep of Valparaiso Saturday.

And Milton's Ridley brothers — as usual — put their stamp on the victories.

The twins combined for four hits and three runs in the Cardinals' 7-0 game one whitewash of Valparaiso.

Shortstop Shayne, still in the leadoff position, punched out a couple of doubles and stole three bases.

He also brought in runs two and six.

Jeremy — who continues to guard second base and hit third in the lineup — cashed in his brother on a sacrifice fly, also hit a double and scored the team's final run.

The Miltonians' plate pop was even more valuable later in the day, when they helped the Cardinals prevail 4-1.

Shayne lashed out a double and later scored run number two in the third inning.

Then Jeremy delivered another sacrifice fly to cash in the eventual game-winning run in the fifth frame.

The bashing brothers — who remain top prospects for the major leagues — will try to guide Ball State to a fifth consecutive winning season, something that hasn't been achieved since the mid '30s.

In 1999, BSU won the regular season conference championship and finished with an overall record of 40-16.

