



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2000



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Winterhawk Daniel Babin lifts this shot past a sprawled Guelph goaltender (left) and then celebrates the goal (right) during tyke championship action at the Milton Optimist Tournament Saturday. The team engineered four straight wins on the way to clinching the championship. They were the only hosts to take the title.

Milton tykes deliver dynamite debut

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

The local tykes may have been a little late for the party, but they certainly made up for lost time.

Twelve years after the inaugural Optimist Tournament, Milton's youngest representatives finally debuted at the spring showcase.

The pintsize rink rats had traditionally been part of the Beaver Tournament -- until it was cancelled this past winter.

Making the most of this tournament transition, they engineered four straight victories on the way to capturing division bragging rights.

Theirs was the only championship won by the hosts over the weekend.

The Lions Club Winterhawks -- who going into last night's Tri County clash with Georgetown were on a seven-game unbeaten streak -- clinched the title by outlasting Guelph 5-3 Saturday.

Milton amassed four unanswered goals in the opening half and then weathered a late storm to prevail.

Spencer Abraham backstopped the locals to victory -- coming through with key stops early on, including a huge pad save during a two-on-none break -- while five of his teammates lit the lamp.

Scoring were Daniel Babin, Jake Cochrane, Brandon Denham, George Kopas and Michael Sgarbossa.

The 'Hawks were particularly potent en route to the finals -- winning all three preliminary

games and collectively outgunning the opposition 16-4.

In addition to Guelph, Brampton and St. Thomas were their other victims.

Scott Dermott stood out offensively in round robin play with five goals and five assists. Not far behind points-wise with three goals and four helpers was Jeffrey Clarke.

Meanwhile, Abraham and netminding partner Richard Monk combined for a goals-against average of 2.33. Each was between the pipes for two contests.

Bantams battered

Milton's bantam teams -- minor and major -- couldn't take advantage of their second chance, so they had to settle for second best.

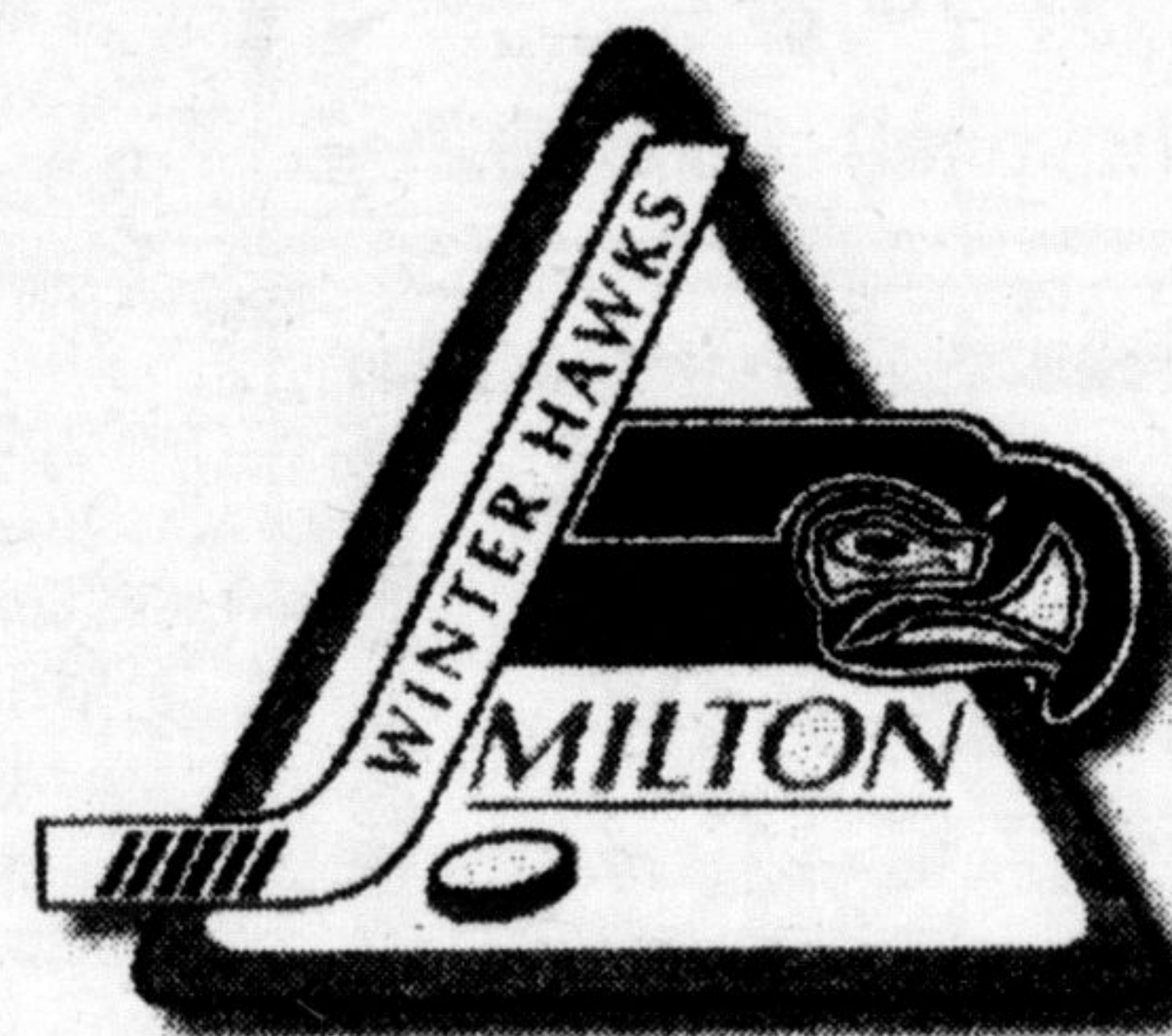
The Lafarge minors were dumped by Sarnia 6-2 in opening round play, and fared no better against them in the title match Saturday night -- getting humbled 7-1.

Suffering through bad breaks with regard to line changes and odd-man rushes, the locals fell behind early and were never really in this one beyond the first period.

Darren Yorke's powerplay marker in the final frame -- which temporarily stopped a running clock -- represented about the only bright spot for Milton.

Sandwiched between their first and final round losses were much stronger showings -- including a 6-0 whitewash of Kitchener and 7-1 rout of Acton.

Highlighting the round robin with a four-goal, five-point effort against Acton was Ian Kornack. Meanwhile, Brandon Gwilliam delivered a hat-trick versus Kitchener.



The Docs & Dents majors weren't any more successful in their own championship bid, losing to Flamboro 6-2 in the second round and then again to them 5-1 in the finals Sunday.

Much like with their minor counterparts, it was a third-period goal -- by Josh Caswell -- that snapped the shutout. His unassisted tally came courtesy of some persistence in the slot, where he scooped up his own rebound and planted it in the top right corner.

The hosts' only strong suit was a flawless 3-for-3 penalty killing campaign. Overall, they were much more impressive against round robin opponents Chedoke and Caledon -- beating them 5-2 and 4-2 respectively.

Caswell and Keith Bewick each tallied twice against Chedoke while chipping in with a pair of assists was Chris Seto.

Atoms downed

A lack of firepower didn't keep the local major atoms out of the championship -- although it did prevent them from winning it.

The 'Hawks advanced to the finals despite only scoring six times and not winning any games in round robin play. Unfortunately, their offensive struggles continued in the title match and they were beaten by Acton 4-1 Saturday.

Milton kept pace through much of the afternoon tilt, but three third-period goals -- scored within a three-minute span -- finally did them in.

Potting their lone marker was Jeff Lowe.

In preliminary competition, they were bombed by Acton 9-2.

Their other games both ended in stalemates -- against Innisfil and Lambeth.

Justin Moir was the team's only multi-goal scorer during the tournament. He had three of their seven games.

Consolation sweep

Milton enjoyed a clean sweep in the consolation finals -- as the minor atoms, minor peewees and major peewees all came away victorious.

The minor peewees' win was by far the most dramatic, as Jacob Caswell sank a backhand shot with just 2:20 remaining to lift them past Bradford 2-1.

Carl Chan was red hot in the cage and delivered one final save in the dying seconds of play to preserve the win.

Equally sharp in net was major peewee Mark Strazdins, who earned a shutout in their 4-0 decision over Georgetown. Captain Steve Ellison led offensively with two goals and an assist.

The minor atoms kick-started the consolation sweep in style, thumping Stouffville 7-3.

Mark Glinney and David Majka each tallied twice in the lopsided win.

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