



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

PRESTO POOL PRODUCTS LTD.
Come see us for all your pool & spa needs!
• Sales • Service • Accessories
305B Steeles Ave. E. 876-2211

FRIDAY, APRIL 7, 2000

Mulé making mark on girls hockey

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Victoria Mulé admits that playing with the boys offers a stiffer challenge — and consequently, is more enjoyable.

However, to have any type of future in hockey — which has been her intent for quite some time now — the local youth realized she'd have to make the switch to female competition sooner or later.

"The boys have always treated me fine and I like playing with them, but I just wanted a change this year," said the 12-year-old, who has hopes of one day going to the Olympics.

So was her transition a step forward or a step back?

Move paying off

That question could be debated over at nauseam — but there's no arguing that the move has paid huge dividends for Mulé.

She still skated with the boys this season, as a member of a local house-league squad, although the bulk of her success has come with the Halton Hills Twisters.

A newcomer to the girls' program, she's made an immediate impact — to say the least — with their minor peewee rep team, guiding them to the North Metro League championship last weekend in Etobicoke.

Sunday, she single-handedly clinched the title with her second hat-trick of the year in Halton Hills' 3-2 overtime win against the more established Brampton Canadettes.

Remarked Mulé, "It was pretty exciting, that's for sure."

Her sudden death heroics — courtesy of a breakaway tally two minutes into the extra session — capped a five-goal weekend in a final four elimination showcase.

It also brought her season goal account up to an even 40, which represents nearly half of the Twisters' scoring this year. An assistant captain and first-line centre with the team, she's averaged a goal a game and hasn't gone more than two contests without lighting the lamp.

"I didn't have a lot of multi-goal games, but I was pretty consistent all season," she said.

Added father Peter, "Victoria's certainly one of the better skaters out there, and has great hockey sense. She seems to know where the puck's going all the time."

Mulé — like many young girls — first tried her hand at figure skating. But that avenue was quickly roadblocked.

"I couldn't even stand up in figure skates, so early on it was hockey all the way."

Coming on the heels of her team's championship victory was a chance to meet many of her idols at Mississauga's Hershey Centre Wednesday evening.

Mulé was among a group of young female players who got the chance to meet Cassie Campbell and the rest of the Canadian Women's team, on their day off from the world championships.

Hopefully this provides the local sniper with some well-timed inspiration — as she prepares for next weekend's provincial finals at Mississauga's Iceland Arena.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Victoria Mulé displays a puck to signify the number of goals she'd scored before Sunday's Metro League finals, which she clinched for her Halton Hills Twisters with a hat-trick to trim the Brampton Canadettes 3-2.

Latest Chapter written out of big competition

Ontario trotting star Latest Chapter, who was scheduled to represent Canada in a series of major races in Scandinavia this spring, will not be making the journey overseas.

OJC trainer John Drennan of Burlington made the decision Monday morning, after the four-year-old trained poorly at Mohawk Raceway.

"I had a respiratory scoping done and his breathing passages were quite constricted. In my opinion, I cannot have him at his best for the

trip," he admitted.

"It's not in anyone's best interest to send over a non-competitive horse. Everyone involved is very disappointed with this turn of events, but I just know it was the right thing to do."

In the horse's last outing on March 20 at Mohawk, Latest Chapter finished a disappointing sixth and was discovered to be less than healthy following the race.

"He just seems to have lost his bloom. His

coat is dull and that's a good indicator that a horse is not right," said Drennan. "He also was not keen when I trained him, so it all added up to an easy decision not to go."

Named Canada's Three Year Old Colt of the Year in 1999, Latest Chapter has won nearly \$350,000 for Veljko Miculinic of Mississauga, Brad and Arnold Shackman of Calgary who share ownership with Drennan.

Plans had called for Latest Chapter to depart

for Norway in early May for the May 14th Oslo Grand Prix with a possible start in Sweden's prestigious Elitlopp two weeks later.

"He's only had 21 lifetime starts so he's still a green horse," said Drennan. "He has so much future. Hopefully, we get another chance to go. I'm pretty sure that in a couple of weeks he'll be fine."

No decision has come from European trotting authorities on a substitute for Latest Chapter.

KNUCKLES

Sport Shop & Skate Exchange

SOCCKER & LACROSSE EQUIPMENT now in STOCK!

SPALDING, WORTH & COOPER

- TOURNAMENT PLUS Balls are BACK!
- Softballs now available for your league
- Bases, Spikes & more equipment
- TEAM UNIFORMS delivered on time
- Quality & Price Guaranteed! We want YOUR business!

878-7422 18 Thompson Rd., Unit #6, Milton 878-7422

Clarke's Golf

LESSONS

To all those who participated in our Winter Indoor Clinics we wish you a fun and improved golf season!

We have now started our OUTDOOR LESSONS. Clinics and Private available.

JUNIOR CLINICS

Every Sunday morning starting in May. Register through the store.

CLUB FITTING

Clarke's Golf is an authorized fitting center for: Ping, Hogan and Wilson. Call for a **FREE** Fitting

SUMMER HOURS
Mon.-Wed. 10 to 6
Thurs.-Fri. 10 to 8
Saturday 9 to 5
Sunday 12 to 4

18 Thompson Rd. Unit 7 & 8 **878-1818**