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Rough go for 'Hawks

Milton's AA minor novices were slow out of the gate in two pre-season games recently — and catch-up efforts met with only partial success.

The Winterhawks fell behind by a couple of goals and despite some offensive pressure down the stretch were humbled by Orangeville 6-1.

Ricardo Raduka potted the lone marker for the 'Hawks. Backstopping Milton was Trevor Rae-Hunt while delivering robust performances were Jeffrey Clarke and Brandon Haggart.

Then against Georgetown, Milton rallied from an early deficit and fought its way to a 2-2 stalemate.

Clarke and Richard Monk lit the lamp for the minor novices. Providing solid cage work was Spencer Abraham.

Standout defensive efforts came from Brendan Farrell and Mackenzie Zuest.

Semifinal heartbreak for debuting juveniles

The juveniles' first taste of competition in a decade was tough to swallow.

On the verge of advancing to the championship game at last weekend's six-team tournament in Richmond Hill, Milton coughed up a seemingly safe three-goal lead in the semifinals and was edged by the Jr. B Pittsburgh Penguins 4-3 Sunday morning.

Heartbreak aside, the local lads did deliver a much improved effort compared to their round-robin battle with the Pens. Losing 6-2 during the initial encounter forced the team to do some fine-tuning to their powerplay and penalty killing units, which resulted in a closer finish during the return engagement.

Jordan Jeans tallied twice in the semifinals while also denting the twine was Matt Ventura.

The Winterhawks' lone victory of the tournament came against Binghampton, New York Saturday night.

The 6-2 triumph was fueled by a three-goal explosion from previously silent Steve Szafer and crafty cage work by Josh Arnold.

Derek Mewhinney also put his mark on the win, scoring a couple of goals just 13 seconds apart in the middle stanza to erase a short-lived lead for Binghampton.

Setting up both of his markers were Jeans and fellow linemate Riley McAneney of Georgetown — which doesn't have a juvenile team this season — while Jeff Mitchell stood out as well with a goal and two assists.

Sandwiching this weekend bright spot were losses to Pittsburgh (6-2) and host Richmond Hill (7-3).

Against Richmond Hill, Milton held a two-goal advantage before they began an evening-long parade to the sin bin which let the floodgates open and turn the tide severely.

McAneney, Mewhinney and Mitchell were the goal-scorers in that one while lighting the lamp in game one against Pittsburgh were McAneney and Ricky Nadalin.

With Acton recently pulling out of Tri County play, the local loop does not have sufficient teams to offer its own juvenile league this year — so the Winterhawks will compete under the 12-team South Simcoe umbrella.

While the regular season schedule has yet to be finalized, games are expected to start around Thanksgiving.

Milton's home games are slated for Saturday nights at 8:30 p.m. at Memorial Arena.

Locals triumph at Derby

Locals caused some mini mayhem on the weekend at the Milton Fall Fair Demolition Derby.

Milton's Ben King and Adam McIsaac prevailed in the two mini four-cylinder class on Saturday night and Sunday afternoon respectively.

Their victories came with a trophy and cheque for $100. McIsaac put the finishing touches on his small-scale battle royal win by knocking off fellow Miltonian Meridith Mayhew — one of three local female drivers who made a notable impact during the smash'em, crash'em extravaganza.

Elaine Rego took second place in the opening heat Saturday while placing third in heat number three that night was Rebekah Scott. Both advanced to the feature round, which was won by Smithville's Michael Salverda.

His stiffest challenge came from Miltonian Jeff Walker, who gained a back-door entry into the main event — through the second chance consolation round — and made the most of it with a solid second-place performance.

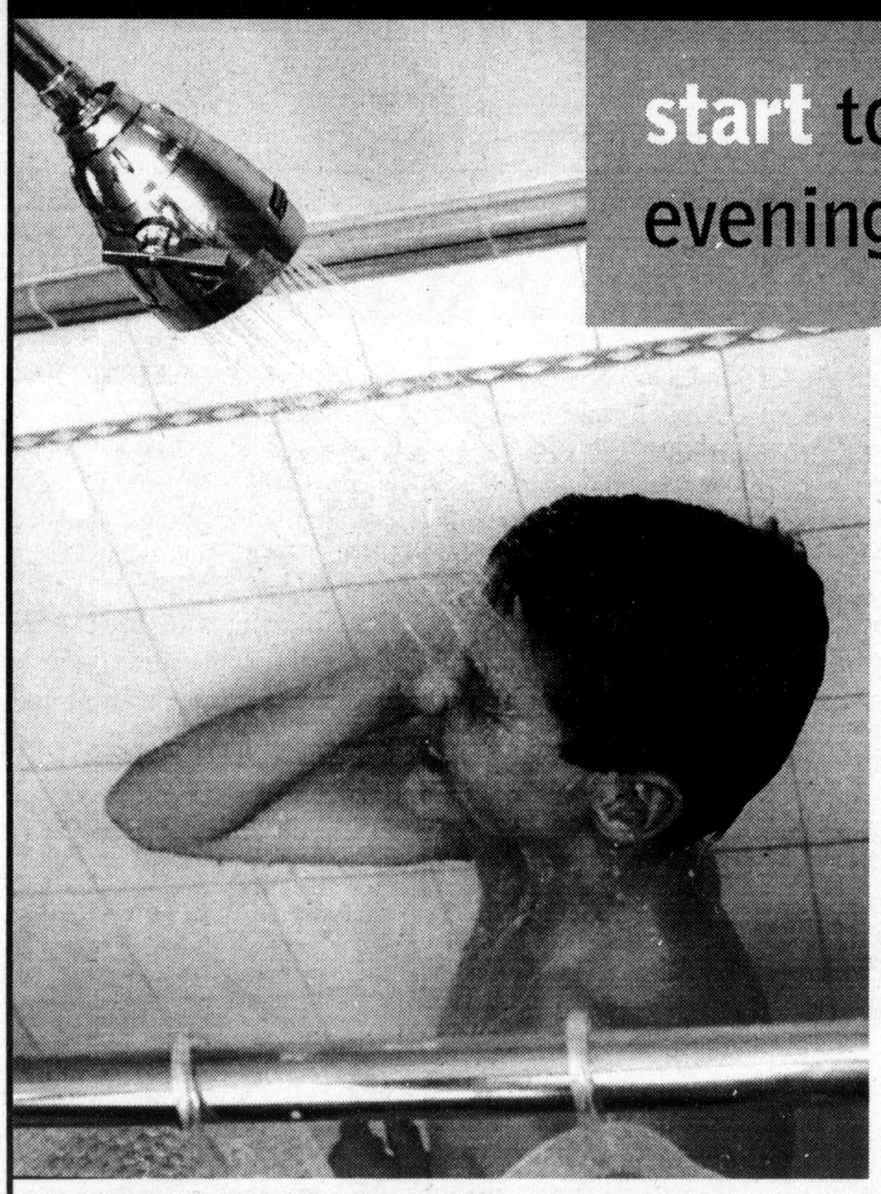
Fellow Miltonian Eric Lorenz — arguably the most successful local in recent years at the derby — won the consolation round Saturday, but his bid for a fourth feature win came up short.

Sunday he finished third in the fourth and final heat, advancing to the finals which were won by Mike Cote of Orangeville.

Among other locals in Sunday's feature were Mike Stokes and Chuck Parnaby, who placed second and third in their respective heats.

Campbellville's Chris Sytsma won for best decorated car — plus the $75 prize and trophy it carried — on Sunday.

a natural start to an evening out



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