

Please fax all your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943, or drop them off anytime at 191 Main St. E.

Juveniles hang on to shade Penetag

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Special to *The Champion*

Milton's AA juveniles ran their win streak to three games at Memorial Arena Saturday.

But the only similarity between this latest triumph and the two that preceded it was the victory itself.

The two before came on the road, and both were of the lopsided variety. Saturday, however, drama upstaged dominance — as the local team eclipsed Penetag 5-4.

Netminder Josh Arnold weathered a late storm — turning back a handful of shots within the final minute-and-a-half, two by way of terrific toe blocks — to preserve the win, while sharing in the heroics with goal number five was captain Steve Szafer,

His game-winning marker was delivered with under seven minutes remaining, when his long-range wrister caught the edge of the right post and ricocheted in.

Assisting on the play were Kaegan Sherriff and Derek Mewhinney — who assumed a starring role on the night with two goals and a pair of assists.

Meanwhile, Marco LaBello and Ricky McAneney also dented the twine. Drawing a couple of helpers each were gritty spark plugs Sherriff and Jordan Jeans.

Strong start

The Winterhawks laid the ground work for another blowout victory through the opening half, but squandered a 3-0 lead and had to rely on a late surge and solid goaltending to finally prevail.

Overall, Arnold made two dozen saves — and was particularly sharp when challenged downstairs — en route to his third win of the season.

Chad Merritt and Corey Leigh provided solid defensive assistance throughout the evening clash — which was somewhat marred down the stretch by a few minor skirmishes and a whistle-happy referee.

Despite a couple of mental breakdowns, the hosts were the more impressive of the two teams — winning the majority of the one-on-one battles and showing stronger on puck possession as well as faceoffs.

Superb starts have been key to the local juveniles' recent success.

Over the last three games they've outscored the competition 8-1 in the opening frame. Saturday they outshot Penetag 13-2 in the first period and by the end of it were ahead 2-0.

The 5-3 Winterhawks will look to prolong their winning ways during an upcoming home-and-home series against Newmarket — whom they toppled 6-0 the last time out.

Milton hosts the initial clash at Memorial Arena Saturday. Game time is 8:30 p.m. The return engagement is slated for next Wednesday, November 22 in Newmarket.



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Football is more like a war, really

The last time I was on a football field as a non-reporter was about 10 years ago at Rich Stadium after a game in which the Buffalo Bills had clinched a playoff spot.

I think we might have started the tailgate party a little early that day because some of my friends literally fell onto the field, along with thousands of others. I, of course, just followed along to make sure I didn't lose my ride.

I remember a number of things about that day. The first was that it was so cold, I can still feel it.

The second was one of my buddies trying to climb up this icy hill so we could get to the parking lot.

Each time he made it almost to the top I'd reach out and offer him a hand, and each time I'd push him back down the hill, and laugh my fool head off.

There's actually no point to that particular story except that it still makes me laugh.

The most thrilling thing to me, though, was actually being on an NFL field. We had an impromptu game of football using a frozen glove as the football and I scored



On the loose

with **MURRAY TOWNSEND**

three touchdowns in five minutes. I was amazing, I tell you, even if I was the only one who could walk in a straight line, and every play started from the five-yard line.

Of course, I pretended I was scoring those touchdowns in an NFL game on Monday Night Football. Quite a thrill, too, thank you very much. Hi Mom!

The thing is I can only imagine what it's like to score a touchdown for real. I believe that out of all the different types of scoring in sports that a touchdown is the most special.

Part of that reason is that football is so much different than other sports. Most sports are games, which is the way it should be, but football is more like a war. The complexities of preparing for that one battle per week are far greater than any another sport can even approach.

And the level of physical punishment to themselves and their opponents is off the scale.

That's not to say that football players are more athletically talented than those who play other sports because that's like comparing baseballs and hockey pucks. And that's not to say that other sports don't subject themselves to a great deal of discipline, physical hardships, and mental fatigue.

Football is different, and so are its players. There's the quarterback, for one thing, who plays the coolest position in any sport and is the one most responsible for his team's success or failure, or at least is perceived to be.

Quarterbacks tend to be cool guys who have an air of cockiness about them. You could argue that most every boy in Canada and the United States grew up fantasizing about being the quarterback on his high school football team.

Then there's the running back, which tends to be a determined individual who will stop at nothing to get to his goal. The other offensive glamour position is the receiver, who is somewhere between the quarterback and running back in attitude, often with a little flakiness thrown in for some reason.

In hockey, getting a goal isn't uncommon; in basketball, points are scored frequently; and scoring a single run in baseball isn't too difficult a task.

Soccer goals aren't common, but in all four of those sports the play goes back and forth and almost any member of the teams can score.

In football, teams get on the battlefield and literally have to march up the field in order to get their score. They're fighting for territory, one yard at a time. Everybody on the field has a stake in making sure that march doesn't falter so they can reach their goal.

When a touchdown is finally scored, it's a payoff for all the physical indignities each member of the team has had to endure, all the planning, all the pain and suffering.

They've won the battle within the war. It's the triumph of good over evil.

Whether it's a running back or receiver or quarterback who scores and gets the actual glory, in reality they're just the flag bearer for the rest of the team.

Mind you, they also get bragging rights. Recently, on the same day, Greg van Es of Milton District and Onel Martino of Bishop Reding each scored three touchdowns.

I can Al Bundy with the worst of them. I once scored six goals in a hockey game, hit a ball over the fence for a home run, slam-dunked a basketball (off a trampoline) and even managed to score a goal in practice one time when I played on a kid's soccer team (one kid scored every single goal during games).

And once, I threw a perfect spiral through a tire in a national media promotion event to give my team the win and the money for the charities of our choice.

But, I never scored a touchdown. I wish I had scored a touchdown.

Weekly House League Schedule

Milton Minor Hockey			
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2000 TONELLI ARENA			
BEGINNERS			
TIM HORTONS BLACK TIMBITS	VS	TIM HORTONS WHITE TIMBITS	7:00 AM
TIM HORTONS RED TIMBITS	VS	TIM HORTONS GREEN TIMBITS	8:00 AM
PRE-NOVICE			
KNUCKLES SPORT SHOP	VS	HUNT PLYMOUTH CHRYSLER	9:00 AM
LITTLE FIREMEN	VS	BRUCE HOOD TRAVEL	10:00 AM
PEEWEE			
SCOOTER'S SNACK SHACKS	VS	DIRECT TV 1-888-NO-CABLE	4:00 PM
ABSOLUTE TRANSPORTATION	VS	TOWNE DENTAL GROUP	5:15 PM
GALLINGER FORD	VS	ROSS DIXON FINANCIAL GROUP	6:30 PM
SATURDAY NOVEMBER 18, 2000 MEMORIAL ARENA			
ATOM			
DONE RIGHT ROOFING	VS	PRESS LAW OFFICE	7:00 AM
CANADIAN TIRE	VS	DREAM CAR TV GARAGE	8:15 AM
MCQUAIG INSURANCE	VS	JOHNSON CONTROLS	9:30 AM
VALLE FOAM INDUSTRIES	VS	BRAIN'S AUTO SERVICES	10:45 AM
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2000 TONELLI ARENA			
NOVICE			
GOODLIFE FITNESS BLUE	VS	GOODLIFE FITNESS GREEN	2:00 PM
GOODLIFE FITNESS BLACK	VS	GOODLIFE FITNESS RED	3:15 PM
KNUCKLES SPORTSHOP	VS	HUNT PLYMOUTH CHRYSLER	4:30 PM
GORRUD'S AUTO SERVICE	VS	SHOPPER'S DRUG MART	5:45 PM
SUNDAY NOVEMBER 19, 2000 MEMORIAL ARENA			
BANTAM			
SUNNY OASIS INTERNET CORP	VS	ABSOLUTE TRANSPORT	5:00 PM
HIGH FIVE PHOTOGRAPHY	VS	RUSSEL METALS	6:20 PM
KEY CENTRES	VS	BRIAN'S AUTO SERVICES	7:40 PM
HOME CINEMA	VS	KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN	8:50 PM
MONDAY NOVEMBER 20, 2000 TONELLI ARENA			
NISKAR PETRO-CANADA	VS	DOCS & DENTS	7:35 PM
KWIK KOPY PRINTING	VS	GUS MOWBRAY HEATING	8:43 PM
MILTON CHRYSLER DODGE	VS	AUSTEN & NOBLE INSURANCE	9:51 PM

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