

Midgets trim Brampton despite being outplayed

Out-chanced, but not outdone.

That was the story for Milton's AA midgets, who registered only half the number of shots as Brampton Thursday — 20 to 40 — but managed to triumph 4-3.

Tim Anderson, Stephano Citton, Julian Ricci and Justin Tingley potted the goals in this highly confrontational showdown that was marred early on by shoddy refereeing and eventually escalated into fighting and subsequent injuries.

Evan Burrell picked up a couple of assists while single helpers went to Rob Day, Chris Dumencu, Trevor Ford, Trevor Langstone and Michael Winiard.

One night earlier the local lads were outshot by an even wider margin — 52-16 — and this time it cost them as they were humbled by Simcoe 6-2.

Jason Strong's 46-save performance was about the only bright

Rep Hockey

spot during the evening for the Winterhawks. Denting the twine were Ricci and David Tielemans.

Assists were registered by Day, Dumencu and Paul Szafer.

Close defeats

Goals and wins have been tough to come by for Milton's AA minor novices these days.

The local rink rats have scored just three times in the past two games and come up a little short on each occasion.

Most recently, they were trimmed by the Flamborough Sabres

3-1.

Great goaltending by Spencer Abraham and a third-period marker by George Kopas — with assists from Jake Cochrane and Ricardo Raduka — helped keep things close.

Before that, the boys were doubled 4-2 by the Guelph Storm. The Winterhawks dug themselves into a big hole early on but managed to cut the bleeding and show strongly down the stretch for a respectable finish.

Lighting the lamp were Jeffrey Clarke and Richard Monk — who each helped set up the other's tally. Other assists went to Brandon Haggart and Gavin Lecky.

Fine defensive work by Lauren Kelly and Mackenzie Zuest gave Milton a fighting chance.

Milton bests gritty Caps

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After Brampton stormed ahead on back-to-back tallies from Jeff Hristovsky, Alterg cut the lead in half by jamming one in low and evened the count just before first intermission by depositing his own doorstep leftovers.

Then Remenda took over to finish the comeback. Continuing to exhibit shades of the now departed Ryan Eby, Milton's high flyer barreled his way to the net and delivered the game winner midway through the night by tipping in a centering pass from Andy Rozak.

From there he provided the insurance marker with four minutes left in regulation, making a nifty little move inside and sinking one through the pads of Scott McKeown — who was filling in for star cager Danny Gould, one of eight players suspended from the night before.

The Merchants benefited from the return of Dan DeLong and Mike McGrane as well as the robust play of Vince Laise, who's been showing strongly since being a healthy scratch three games ago.

Joel Cameron was between the pipes for the win, his 11th this year.

Thursday evening was a throw back to the old Merchant-Capital wars, with misadventure striking at the end of the second period. About a dozen players were involved in the fiasco, which took nearly an hour to sort out and eventually came out in Milton's favour, with Gould being tossed and Nadalin — who fought twice during the melee — being mistaken for rookie winger Scott Malcolm and remaining in the game.

Malcolm, James Coleman and Dan Bognar were tossed for the Merchants while Capitals coach Mario Cicchillo and a handful of his charges earned ejections.

And while the Merchants also got an extensive powerplay out of the deal, they were simply unable to rally from a 4-1 hole they'd dug for themselves earlier in the night.

They scored twice during the lengthy stint with the extra attacker but also surrendered a shorthanded goal which essentially proved to be the difference as the Brampton won 6-4. An empty netter in the final minute sealed Milton's fate.

The Merchants' goals came from Alterg, Laise, Kevin Arruda and newcomer Jason Harshaw, who also picked up an assist for his third multi-point performance since becoming a Merchant.

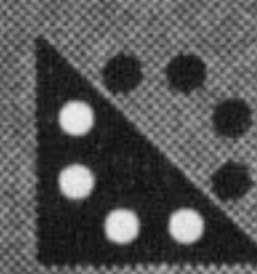
Merchant notes: Defenceman Chris Krieg, formerly of the Hamilton Kilty Bees, saw his first action as a Merchant during the two-game series with Brampton and showed strongly on the blueline ... Milton hosts Mississauga Friday and closes out the week in Buffalo Saturday.

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