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FRIDAY MARCH 30, 2001



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Milton School of Jiu-Jitsu students (from left) Shawn Lovering, Gary Laing, Justine Smith and Peter Leaman show off the championship trophies they earned during recent national competition. A host of other locals delivered top four finishes.

✓ Hefty hardware haul for Milton jiu-jitsu students at national event

Gold, silver and bronze rained down for members of the Milton School of Jiu-Jitsu recently at the Canadian Sport Jiu-Jitsu and Grappling Championship.

All 22 junior competitors finished top four — with many delivering multi-medal winning efforts in sport jiu-jitsu, grappling and demonstration kata.

Leading the way with three golden performances was Gary Laing while reaching the top of the podium one time each were Peter Leaman, Shawn Lovering, Justine Smith and Daniel Kelsh — who also secured a silver and a bronze.

Vaëssa Hoytfoe struck silver twice while doing so once each were Jade Brownridge, Tyla Campbell, Sophia Civiero,

Dante Duncan, Rachel Harris, Sigourney Hoytfox, Shawn Lovering and Adam McDonald.

Scott Freer and Shannon Laing led the bronze-medal hunt with two apiece while singles went to Brownridge, Duncan, Harris, Zachary Boychuk, Brandon McDonald and Steve Miller.

Rounding things out with fourth-place performances were Katie Blasco, Nerhys Hall and Graeme Taylor with two each as well as Campbell, Leaman and Smith.

There were more than 200 competitions at the national championships. Leading Milton's contingent was Sensei Darlene Kelsh.

Merchants up 2-1

Early scoring surge leads to lopsided win

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Merchants answered the call of opportunity — and waiting on the line was their biggest playoff win to date.

Taking full advantage of a concentrated rash of penalties by the host Couchiching Terriers Tuesday, Milton scored four times on two-man powerplays near the end of the first period and went on to thrash their northern opponents 7-2.

"What can you say, we capitalized on every opportunity they gave us," said general manager Nick Slawson.

The lopsided victory — which put the local juniors ahead two-games-to-one in the league semifinals series, which so far as been a visitors' series — was number three in a row on hostile ground for the Merchants.

It also strengthened the notion that they can play with their heads as well as their hearts.

Unlike the aggressive Brampton Capitals, Couchiching employs a wide-open style and can make teams pay for a lack of structure or discipline.

But Milton afforded their hosts little of either during game three — making the necessary adjustments to succeed against an offensively potent but physically inept club.

"Our fore checking and back checking really stifled any offense they could muster. We're playing very well on the big ice surface," remarked Slawson.

Added playoff scoring sensation Andy Rozak, "I think we're adapting pretty well. Couchiching's a very skilled team, but we're definitely skating with them."

Joel Cameron was flawless for all but one minute of the contest — during which he surrendered goals to Mike Hanna and captain Dave Wrigley — while starting counterpart Paul Schonfelder got the hook before first intermission.

Overall, shots on net favoured the Terriers 35-29.

The Merchants made half-a-dozen deposits in a 10:24 stretch, including four within a couple of minutes.

Captain John Nadalin enjoyed his second straight four-point effort in Couchiching, with a goal and three assists to lift his semi-final scoring account to nine.

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