



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Remenda's hat-trick fuels Merchants' win

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

There was no hanging of heads when exiting Vic Johnston Arena this time around.

Exactly five weeks after a 9-6 embarrassment in Streetsville — which marked the beginning of the end for now departed head coach Glenn Walsh — the Merchants returned to the scene of the crime and righted a horrible wrong.

A Shane Remenda hat-trick, clutch goaltending and overall inspired play fueled Tuesday's 5-3 Milton win — which drew the defending conference champions with a point of sixth-place Mississauga.

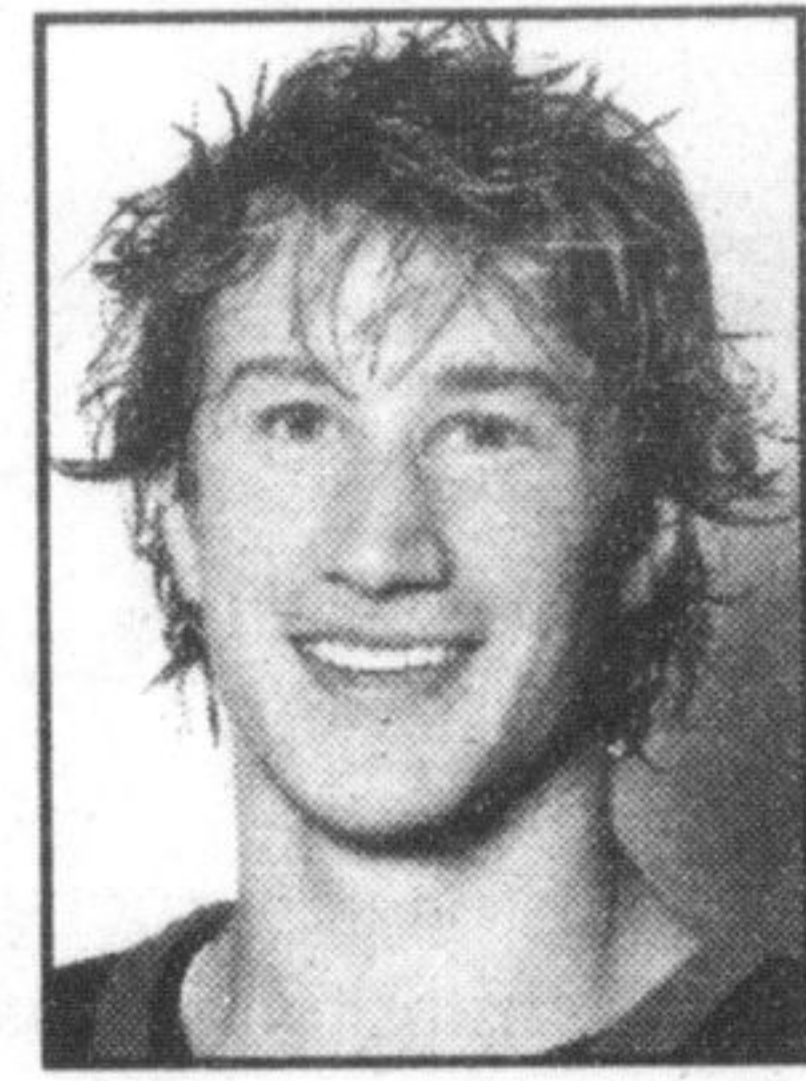
"This is something to build on," Remenda said of the key road win, the second in three nights for the Merchants. "We're moving up and things are starting to look better."

Added sidelined forward David Ovcjak, "We had a couple of good line combinations going and got much better defense and goaltending (than the last time in Streetsville)."

Remenda's hat-trick — his first as a Merchant — highlighted a remarkably productive season campaign against the Derbys.

In three games he's scored seven goals and assisted on three others. Tuesday's outburst lifted the enigmatic winger into a team-leading tie for goals with rookie Rich Meloche and newly acquired forward Rick Carrierre.

All three sit with 10 goals for the season.



Shane Remenda

Meanwhile, Campbellville's Ryan McManus grabbed a piece of the spotlight for himself with a shutout of sorts in his Merchant debut.

The Mississauga Rebels goaltender — who played four games with the Jr. A

Chargers last season while Trevor Battaglia was injured — replaced Sean Samuel midway through the first period and turned back all two dozen shots he faced through the final 49:36 minutes of play.

"Ryan certainly played well, but it was more that we played better in front of him (than Sean)," said head coach Dave Gagner.

Following a lacklustre start — rich with giveaways and blundered breakouts — the Merchants fortified their efforts and collected three unanswered goals en route to victory. Milton was particularly effective at crashing the net and creating traffic in front of opposing netminder Willy Coutts.

Freshman Dan Carcillo stood out with a goal and three helpers — his highest point-total this season — while Carrierre was the other marksman.

Tuesday's win lifted the Merchants to 9-11-1. Milton could take another step up the division ladder with a win at home tonight against basement-dwelling Buffalo and one in Mississauga Sunday.

She's Royal-ly guarded

Bishop Reding's Kasia Sitarz closely guards an Iroquois Ridge opponent and (Inset) one of her teammates falls to the court while battling for possession during junior girls quarterfinal action at BR Monday. Reding lost 27-20. For full results on both the junior and senior Royals, see page 25.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE



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