

# 'AA' midgets sidestep disaster in regular season-ending play

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

Heading into regular season-ending play against Burlington Saturday, Milton's AA midgets had all the ingredients in place for a lopsided victory.

But serving one up proved much tougher than initially expected.

Though managing to secure the win and lift their record to a much-improved 19-7-2, Arnie Parcels' Toyota Winterhawks had to dodge a couple of late bullets in order to come out on top.

Averting disaster during afternoon action at Burlington's Appleby Ice Centre, Milton escaped a bad line change and roughing infraction unharmed before depositing a last-minute empty netter to trim the severely shortstaffed hosts 3-1.

Kyle Goertz backstopped the visitors to victory — turning aside two dozen shots and delivering three impressive glove saves to fend off the uncharacteristically competitive Eagles.

He should have had a little more breathing room down the stretch, but the local midgets botched half-a-dozen powerplay opportunities throughout the afternoon, including a two-man advantage in the third period.

The Milton tender's shutout bid was spoiled on a point shot — that ricocheted off his pad and laboured its way over the goal line — with about nine-and-half minutes remaining.

Michael Winiarz scored the game-winner, with a poke check steal at his own blueline and a bottom shelf wrister on the ensuing breakaway.

Paul Szafer made the initial deposit six minutes earlier — completing a nifty tic-tac-toe play — while the insurance marker was notched by Scott McLaughlin.

Like Parcels, Connor Sweeney was back from a one-game suspension and offered a stabilizing presence on the blueline. The Winterhawks captain was particularly effective during one-on-one battles, as was defensive partner Chris Strank.

Meanwhile, Ryan Pilarczyk's hustle off the bench during a bad line change thwarted a breakaway inside the final four minutes of play. A 5-for-5 penalty killing campaign also factored into the narrow victory.

Shots on goal favoured Burlington 25-21.

Milton was still awaiting word on who its first-round opposition would be at press time yesterday afternoon.

## Strong effort at tourney by the 'AA' major atoms

*Reached quarterfinals at international showcase*

Milton's AA major atoms enjoyed plenty of memorable moments at the recent Ottawa International Hockey Festival.

Unfortunately, a trip to the final four was not among them.

The Wallace Pontiac Buick Winterhawks delivered an inspired effort during quarterfinal action, but just couldn't fend off a late assault by L'Intrepide de Ottawa.

Three goals against in the third period sealed their fate, as the local lads were topped 5-1. Wade McGinnis sank the lone goal, with help from Brayden Abraham and Scott Stover.

Coach Brian Abraham called for two stick measurements in the third in an attempt to narrow the gap — and while penalties resulted each time, no reversal of fortune followed.

Milton fared much better in round-robin play — adjusting rather well to the no body-checking rule and winning its first two games to ensure a berth to the quarterfinals.

The 'Hawks donned their rally caps in the tournament opener, battling back from a two-goal deficit to outlast Rideau-St. Lawrence 4-2.

Stover fueled the comeback with a pair of deposits, while posting one apiece were McGinnis and Kris DelNin.

Then Stover tallied twice again to help his atoms knock off the Warren Park Eagles 4-1. Milton amassed four unanswered goals in this one as well after falling behind early.

McGinnis drew two assists while single markers went to Abraham and Kyle Johnson.

With round three of no consequence to pool standings, the 'Hawks were less than stellar and fell to Kingston 5-1. Stover extended his tournament scoring streak to three games with his fifth goal of the weekend, while setting him up were McGinnis and Matt Elliott.

Milton finished the tournament with the fewest penalty minutes and secured some bragging rights during the skills competition. Taylor Prestidge was named top goalie and Abraham — happy not to be facing his own netminder — came away with the top scorer award.

Prestidge also represented his team in the tournament's all-star game, as did Stover. Over 1,000 fans took in the contest.

## 'A' atoms finish in fourth

Milton's A major atoms ran the gamut over their final three games of the regular season — securing a win, loss and draw to finish fourth.

The Karmax Winterhawks highlighted this stretch drive with a 9-0 pasting of Hespeler Friday.

Nick DiGiallonardo was challenged a measly four times during the evening clash, but did have to make one nifty glove save to preserve his shutout.

Five third-period goals put the high-flying visitors well out of reach.

Daniel Lewandowski turned a hat-trick and added an assist while matching that four-point total with two goals and a pair of helpers was captain Jacob Goode.

Jonathan Riding also tallied twice, while singles were recorded by Ryan Cheeseman and Eric Gottwald.

Back at home to close out the season Sunday, Milton held two separate leads but had to settle for a 2-2 stalemate with Georgetown.

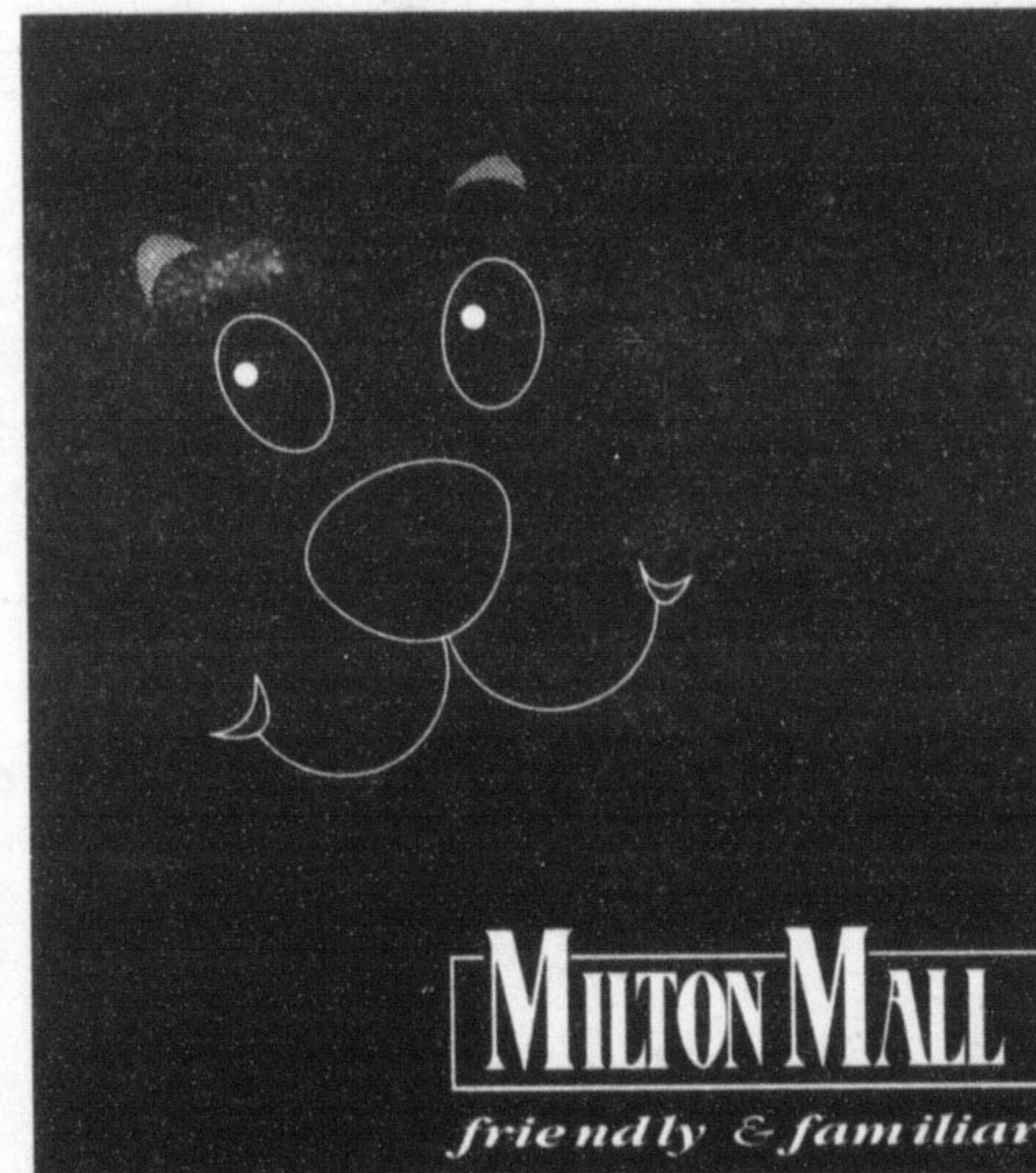
The tying tally came with just half-a-minute remaining.

Parker Mott backstopped the 'Hawks while Lewandowski and Jeff Black lit the lamp. Jordan Haggart delivered an outlet pass on goal number two.

At home last Tuesday, Mott turned back two dozen shots but received no offensive support in a 1-0 defeat at the hands of Guelph. The lone deposit came within the opening minute of play on a doorstep scramble.

Marshall Vince and Cal Wollaston offered dynamite defense to help keep their team in a position to rally.

Milton finished with a league record of 15-6-3.



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