



# SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

TUESDAY JANUARY 29, 2002



## 'Hawks grounded

Milton Winterhawk Ethan O'Connor (at left) is robbed by Caledon's netminder while one of his teammates barrels over an opponent (above) during 'A' minor atom playoff action at Memorial Arena Saturday. Milton kept the first-round series close, but was eventually eliminated in four games after losing 3-2 Saturday. For full results, see page 19.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

## Merchants cough up late lead against G'town

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

The Merchants got their point across against Georgetown Friday.

Only problem is, they should have collected more than one.

Milton looked to have victory all sown up with their regional rivals, but a three-goal cushion quickly vanished in the final five-and-a-half minutes of play — resulting in a 4-4 stalemate and blown opportunity to stay ahead of the Raiders.

The comeback draw and an overtime win over Streetsville Saturday allowed the neighbouring juniors to catch Milton in the race for fifth spot, that with just one week remaining in the regular

season is now going down to the wire.

Trevor Battaglia and his defensive unit buckled down the stretch after a rather solid showing Friday — which represented the first game against former teammate turned Raider Shane Remenda, one of four members (two players/two coaches) of last year's conference championship squad now toiling with Georgetown.

Rick Janco and Scott Malcolm led offensively with a goal and an assist each while also scoring for the hosts were Justin Nattress and standout rookie Rich Meloche.

Captain Dan Bogнар and Tristan Senior posted two assists each.

While Remenda was by and large a non-factor

in the first encounter against his former cohorts, he did pick up an assist on goal number two — which initiated the rally.

Georgetown's Ryan Robert notched goals one and four on the night while singles went to Scott MacDonald and Wayne Powell.

One night earlier in Brampton, Milton struck early but went to sleep in the second period and wound up losing 7-4.

Two goals in the last two minutes of play — courtesy of a five-minute major and a pulled netminder — made things a little more respectable, but were hardly part of any legitimate comeback bid.

Battaglia and understudy Ryan McManus took turns getting yanked, neither providing much

resistance against the front-running Capitals.

About the only bright spot on the night was a two-goal effort by steadily-improving rookie Dan Carcillo, who was back from a two-game gross misconduct suspension.

Bognar and David Ovcjak were the other marksmen, while standing out for Brampton with a hat-trick was Jason Vissar. Jeff Hrtowski made it a memorable night as well by potting his 50th and 51st goals of the season.

Milton begins a home-and-home clash with Streetsville tonight at Vic Johnston Memorial Arena.

Carcillo, Meloche and fellow freshman Shawn Mole will represent the team tomorrow at the annual Future Stars Game in Bramalea.



## Milton's Choice Awards Nominee Section is *Coming*

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