

'AA' major bantams sweep aside Georgetown

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Milton's AA major bantams used equal parts drama and dominance to dispose of their first-round opponents in short order last week.

The Halton Lift Truck Winterhawks employed the former during series-opening play — as Kyle Strong scored in overtime to eclipse the Georgetown Raiders 2-1.

Corey Clarkson tended the net in exceptional fashion, while making the initial deposit was

Matt Reed.

From there, the local bantams fortified their efforts and delivered two convincing wins — capping the best-of-five series sweep with Thursday's 8-1 rout at Memorial Arena.

Clarkson offered a near-flawless performance in this one as well, and seven different players lit the lamp to knock off Georgetown.

"We stepped things up with hustle and discipline," said head coach Eric Ellison. "And Corey (Clarkson) was awesome for us. He came

through big time."

Robbie Wilson recorded his second straight two-goal night in the series-clinching blowout. Contributing singles were Reed, Steve Ellison, Daniel Lynch, Greg Pepper, David Tielemans and Brent McCrimmon-Jones — who scored on the first shift of the game to initiate the mismatch.

Milton had a stiffer challenge in game two, but prevailed 6-3.

Wilson's two goals were complimented by

deposits from Ellison, Reed, Tielemans and Mark Galick.

Pepper also stood out with three assists while between the pipes was Robert Smith.

The bantams — who followed their midget counterparts in sweeping the first round in four nights — now face the Flamborough Sabres.

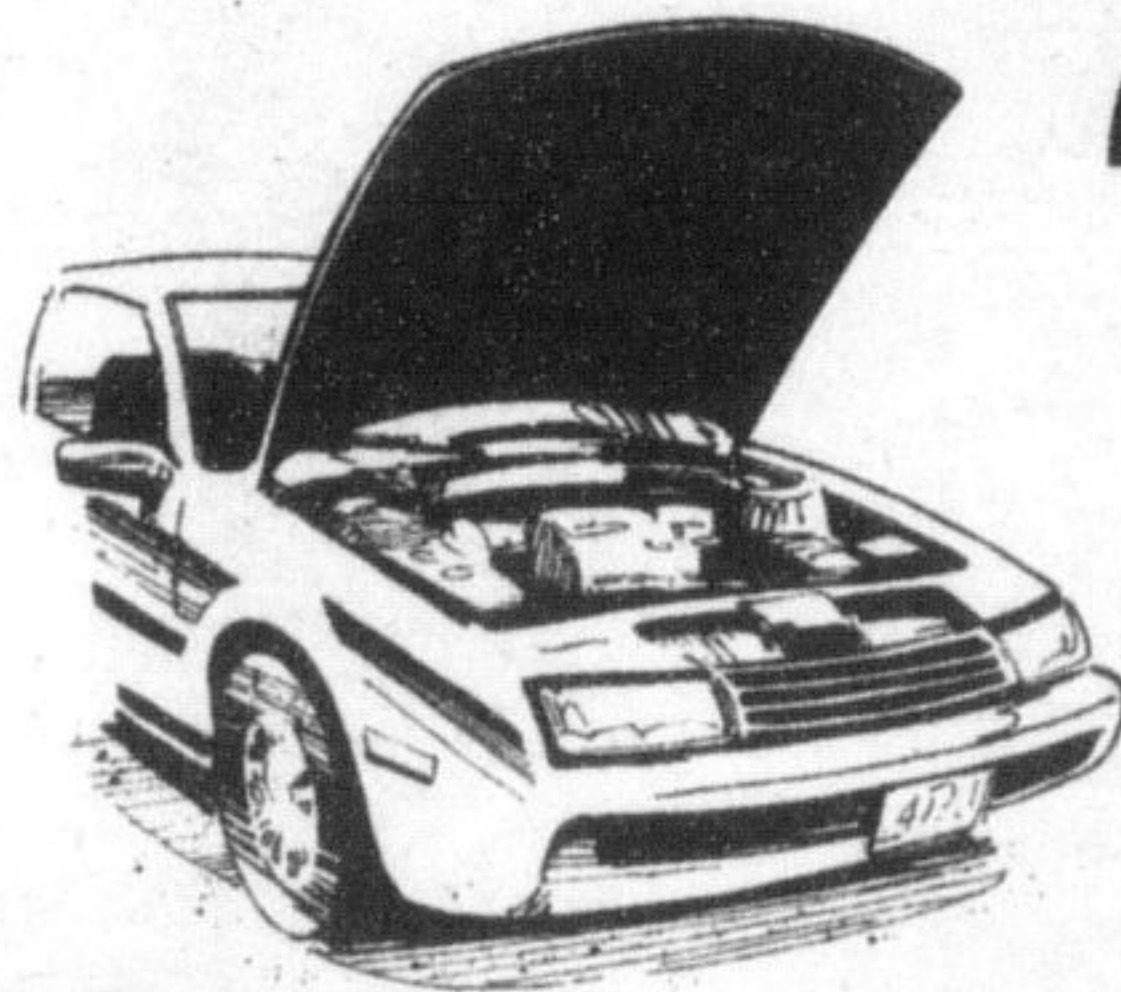
The series began last night at Memorial Arena. Game two is set for tomorrow night in Carlisle while game three will be played at Memorial Arena Sunday at 8 p.m.

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KEVIN BLACKLOCK

'A' midgets suffer surprising game one loss to Georgetown

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
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Thirteen minutes into the night and down 3-0.

Milton's A midgets hadn't experienced anything even remotely resembling this type of scenario during regular season play against the basement-dwelling Georgetown Raiders.

But too much confidence and not enough effort can make for rather shocking results. The Winterhawks learned that first-hand at Memorial Arena Saturday.

Beginning OMHA playdown action as the distinct favourite versus the traditionally pushover Raiders, Milton offered a lacklustre start and consequently was taken for three goals inside a two-and-a-half minute span late in the first period.

While sharp netminding and a sense of urgency both made appearances through the balance of the evening, they couldn't quite tip the scales in the hosts' favour.

The 'Hawks drew within one down the stretch, but gave up a last-minute empty-netter and lost the best-of-five series opener 4-2.

"We were definitely overconfident — big time," said head coach Jim Kosmalski. "There was a real lack of team play. Some guys did their job tonight, but just a handful."

Puckstopper Tim Johnston would have to be includ-

ed in that select group, after rebounding from a shaky start to turn back more than a dozen shots and keep the local midgets within striking distance.

While the local tender was unable to bail out his teammates early on, all three goals against him were courtesy of blatant breakdowns by the defense — which was caught up ice on the second and third markers.

Josh Caswell, Milton's most reliable sniper, cut into the visitors' lead late in the second on a short-range wrister off the draw. Tim Anderson would then draw his team within one by barreling into the slot and going upstairs with about four minutes left to play.

Georgetown continued to protect their lead like it was pure gold and finally cemented the win with an empty-net deposit from its own blueline.

Each side had just one powerplay and neither capitalized on it. Shots on goal favoured Milton 37-25.

The Raiders' game one victory was only their third in league play this season.

They hosted game two last night, while the series continues Saturday at Memorial Arena. Game time is 8 p.m.

If necessary, games four and five will be played February 4 and 9 in Georgetown and Milton respectively.

March 1, 2002

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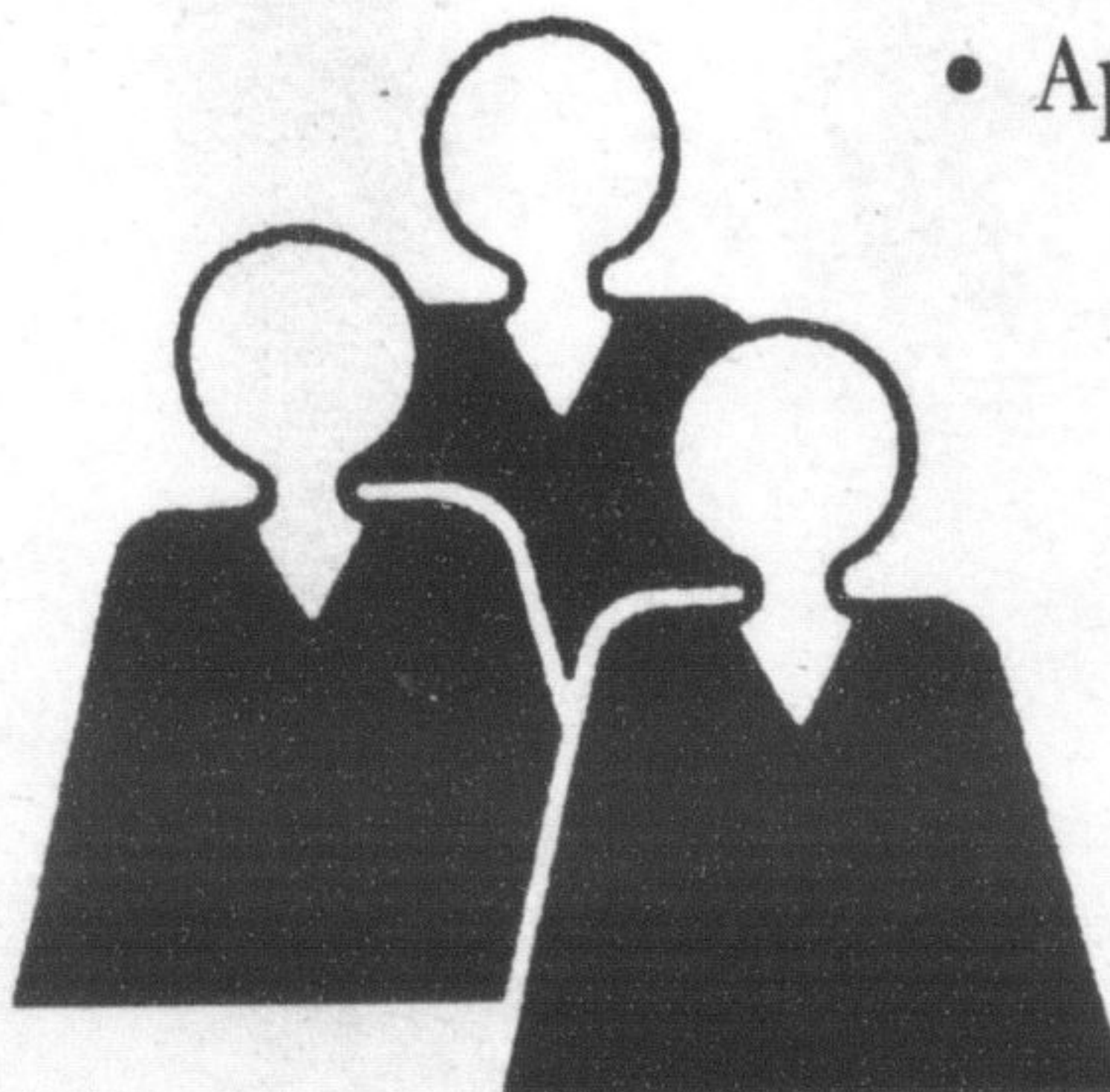
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'AA' atoms clinch series with shutout

Hot goalie earns second goose egg in three nights

Taylor Prestidge delivered his second straight shutout to close the books on the Flamborough Sabres Thursday evening in Carlisle.

After dropping the best-of-five series opener 3-1, Milton's AA major atom netminder allowed just one measly goal in the following three encounters to turn the tide on Flamborough.

He offered another topnotch performance in Thursday's 2-0 clincher — and received ample support from his defensively-sturdy cohorts. Offensively, Brayden Abraham sank the game-winner during second-period play while an empty-net insurance goal was later provided by Ryan Cochrane.

Drawing assists on the night were Matt Elliot and Jeremy Price.

The Wallace Pontiac Buick Winterhawks won games two, three and four despite only scoring a combined nine goals — a clear indication of some impressive play in their own. A return to their traditionally disciplined approach to competition factored into the final win as well.

Milton now moves on to round two against Chatham. The schedule was not finalized at press time yesterday, but the series is expected to start sometime this weekend.