

'A' minor atoms fall to Caledon, but keep series quite respectable

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Milton's A minor atoms were winless through regular season play — so knocking off their first-round opponents seemed highly unlikely.

With that in mind, the Nadalin Electric Winterhawks focused as much on keeping their best-of-five clash with the Caledon Hawks respectable as actually playing the spoiler.

In regard to the former objective, the local rink rats certainly came through — staving off humiliation at every turn and almost pushing the series to a fifth game.

But heartbreak would rear its ugly head at Memorial Arena Saturday afternoon, as the visitors capped their comeback bid with a mere 10 seconds remaining to triumph 3-2.

The winning goal — on a wide-angle,

bottom-shelf deposit — gave Caledon the series in four games, after dropping the opening tilt 2-0.

The Winterhawks' lone league victory was quickly followed up by three highly credible outings, two of which were decided by a single tally.

The second of these nearly went in their favour, as Andrew Ouellette's powerplay marker — a well-placed wrister through the five-hole — put the hosts ahead midway through the third period Saturday.

But Caledon potted a cross-ice redirect by steady tender Joel Herder just moments later, setting the stage for their late-game heroics.

Herder's 17-save performance helped keep things close, as did some dynamite defense by J.D. Davies.

Like Ouellette, Jason Entmaa sank one through the opposing cager's pads in the

dying seconds of the opening frame to even the count at 1-1.

Milton had just the single shot during first-period play, but stepped things up offensively down the stretch.

Entmaa and Ethan O'Connor had some key chances, but were robbed with big pad saves.

In Caledon Thursday, Herder offered a solid performance but his teammates couldn't dent the twine and were vanquished 3-0.

This marked the most decisive game of the series — a clear testament to the Winterhawks' gutsy play.

Milton won just two games all year — both in shutout fashion. They blanked Caledon in game one and did the same to the tournament hosts during the 35th annual Hespler Tournament over the holidays.

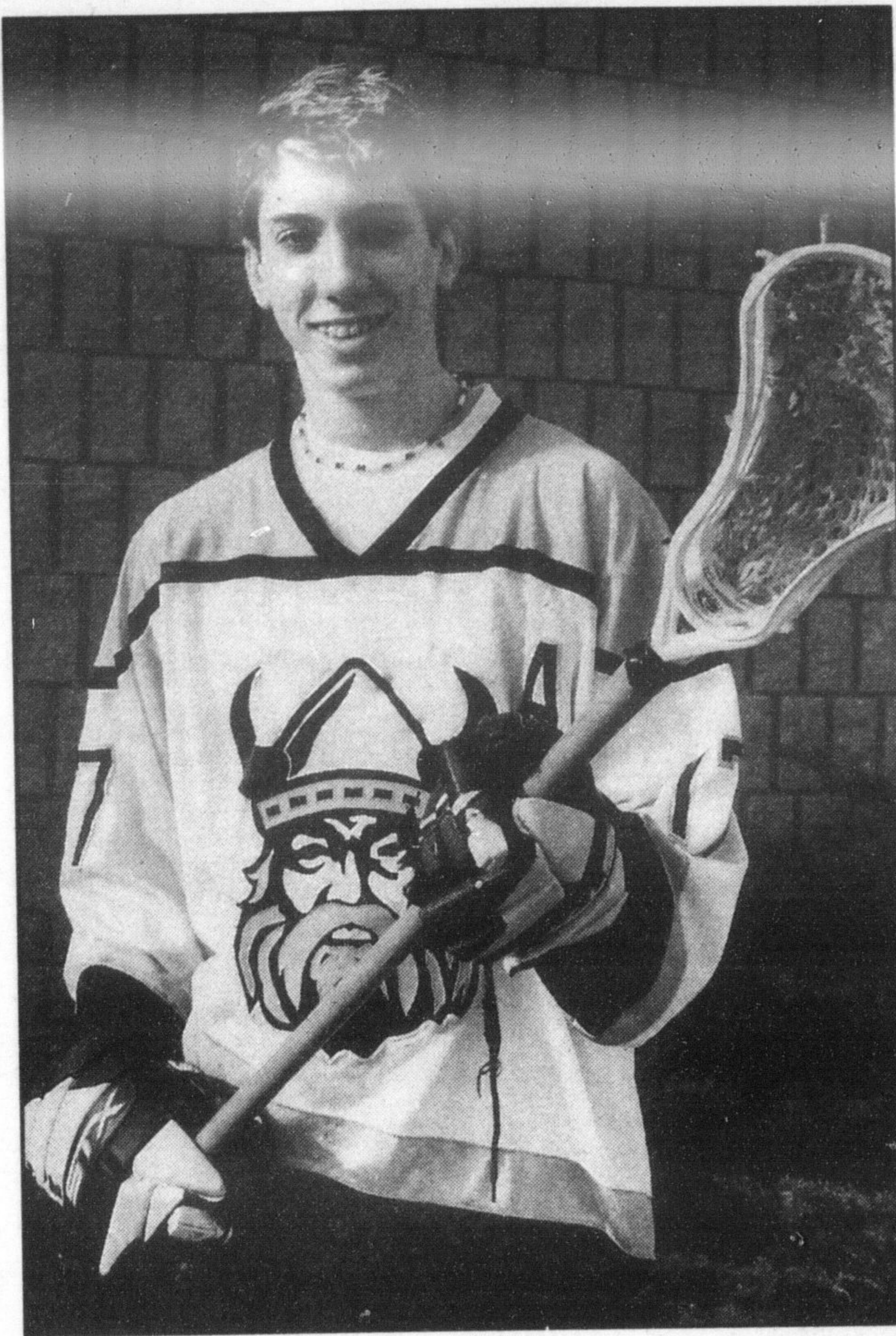


Photo by STEVE LeBLANC

Heading north?

Miltonian Mike Novak is all smiles these days since being drafted by the Jr. A Orangeville Northmen earlier this month. The Halton Hills Bulldog midget was taken in the first round, ninth overall.

'A' major atoms in tough for playoffs

Milton's A major atoms are behind the proverbial eight ball after getting blanked by Ancaster 3-0 Sunday afternoon during game two of their first-round OMHA playoff series.

The visiting atoms — who took top spot in regular-season play — broke a scoreless stalemate midway through the third and then cemented the win with two more deposits to take a three-points-to-one series lead.

Parker Mott kept things tight with some standout cage work while his defensive unit — comprised of Jonathan Cragg, John Grant, Brandon Rae-Hunt and Marshall Vince — offered a credible performance as well.

Unfortunately, the Karmax Winterhawks weren't nearly as impressive offensively — managing just a handful of shots all afternoon.

They were much more potent in Ancaster Saturday.

However, Milton couldn't quite hold on to a pair of leads and had to settle for a 3-3 stalemate in the series opener.

Daniel Lewandowski scored the first and final goals — the second of which was an unassisted breakaway deposit that nearly held up as the game-winner.

Cragg connected from the point for goal number two while Eric Gottwald, Riley Duke and captain Jacob Goode picked up assists.

A goal called back and two late powerplay goals against combined to rob the locals of game one victory. In net was Nick Digiallonardo — who turned back 22 shots, including one with a huge glove save, for the tie.

Game three will be played in Ancaster Saturday while the teams return to Memorial Arena for game four next Wednesday, Feb. 6 at 7:15 p.m.

SPRINGFIELD H UPHOLSTERY

Recovering Furniture Since 1973

Residential & Commercial
Specializing in antique work
Decorative fabrics to choose from
High density cushion foam & foam mattress

370 Main St. E.
Milton, ON

905-876-5694
Leave message for Larry

WE CAN HELP YOU STEER

CLEAR OF THE WINTER BLUES.

WINTER MAINTENANCE PACKAGE

\$39⁹⁵
Plus tax

Lube, oil and filter • 15 point inspection
including antifreeze, tires, wipers, hoses &
belts • Tire rotation • Brake inspection
• Top up fluids • Set tire pressure

INCLUDES AN ELECTRONIC BATTERY TEST.

WINTER BRAKE PACKAGE

From
\$119⁹⁵
Plus tax

Replacement of front pads or linings with
ACDelco DuraStop™ parts • Brake fluid top up
• 1 year or 20,000 km labour warranty
• Machining of rotors and drums extra, if required

LIMITED LIFETIME WARRANTY ON PADS AND SHOES.

ASK FOR OUR ACDelco BATTERIES FOR QUICK-SURE STARTS
THIS WINTER, NEXT SPRING AND YEARS TO COME.



We support:



For the air
we breathe™



Goodwrench Service
Right. On time.

At your GM Dealership. www.goodwrench.gmcanada.com 1-800-GM-DRIVE

*Limited time only. Participating GM Dealerships may set individual prices. LOF includes up to 5L of GM premium motor oil. Offer valid on most GM vehicles. Offer available to retail customers only. See Service Advisor for offer conditions and more details or call 1-800-GM-DRIVE.™DuraStop is a registered trademark of ACDelco.™An official mark of the Province of Ontario used with permission.