

# Milton's NCAA veterans clear initial playoff hurdle

Darren (Mini) Haydar's big-game scoring prowess continues.

With his nationally top-ranked New Hampshire Wildcats trailing Merrimack 3-0 Saturday during game two of the best-of-three Hockey East quarterfinals, the senior captain donned his rally cap to squash any hopes for a series turnaround.

The Hobey Baker Award candidate struck twice on the powerplay in the second period and ended the night by setting up an overtime winner to shade Merrimack 5-4 and sweep the opening round.

Haydar also scored with the man-advantage in Friday's 6-2 rout of Merrimack, while his weekend deposits lifted his overall season goal total to 30.

Looking for his third trip to the Frozen Four, Milton's NCAA star will now lead UNH against UMass-Lowell in the Hockey East semifinals — which begin tonight in New Hampshire.

UMass-Lowell got by first-round opponent Northeastern — taking the best-of-three rubber match

3-1 Saturday, thanks in part to former Merchant Ed McGrane, who assisted on the game winner.

Meanwhile, Miltonian Candice Ceelen also hopes to book passage to the Frozen Four with the Niagara Purple Eagles.

Initial efforts toward that end were extremely favourable — as the national powerhouse squad annihilated Quinnipiac 8-1 Friday night in a single-elimination showdown. A 35-4 shots on goal differential was perhaps the best indication of just how lopsided the ECAC East quarterfinal tilt was.

Ceelen — a well-round junior who sits fourth in team scoring — had a goal and two assists, including one on the game winner about six minutes into the weekend mismatch.

Her Purple Eagles will now head to the University of Connecticut this weekend for the division semifinals and finals. They'll begin against Providence and if successful, will then face the winner of the New Hampshire/Northeastern clash.

# Marlins make waves in Brantford

Individual improvement was the calling card for local swimmers during the recent provincial short course championships in Brantford.

While shut out of the medals, the Milton Marlins sent nine representatives to the week-long showcase — their largest contingent in several years — and most achieved personal-best efforts.

Kristen McIlroy, 15, was the busiest and most successful of the lot — placing sixth in the 200-metre backstroke and eighth in the 50m freestyle.

The Ontario championship veteran also finished 10th in the 100m freestyle as well as 11th in both the 200 and 400m freestyle.

Also cracking the top 10 in the 400m individual

medley was 13-year-old Aaryn Fraser, who was just one spot back of doing so in the 200m breaststroke as well.

Fourteen-year-old Rachel Robinson was 12th in the 200m breaststroke.

Offering solid performances in their provincial debuts were 10-year-old David Dimitrov and 12-year-old Jessica Switzer.

Dimitrov placed 14th in the 100m butterfly while Switzer's time in the 200m breaststroke was good enough for 16th.

Making up the rest of the team were Jacqueline Clarke, Ricky Davids, Laura Doherty and Victoria Poole.

# 'A' major atoms in tough

Milton's A major atoms had to settle for just one of four possible points in recent Tri County action.

It came during a 2-2 stalemate with Flamborough. Two powerplay goals allowed the Karmax Winterhawks to squeeze out a point in a game they dominated but were held scoreless at even strength play.

Jacob Goode netted the tying tally while goal number one was deposited by Brad Mazzocato.

Milton evened the count twice against Guelph, only to surrender a doorstep left-over in the final three minutes of play and fall 3-2.

Mazzocato and Jordan Haggart did the scoring while assists were recorded by

## Rep Hockey

Goode, Riley Duke, John Grant and Nick Digiallonardo.

### Peepees still unbeaten

Milton's AA major peewees kept their unbeaten Tri County playoff record intact by trimming Stoney Creek Saturday.

Jeremy Brown scored two goals, including the game winner, while also lighting the lamp was Alex Berndt.

Drawing assists were Jacob Demarch, Blake Frittenburg and Alex Yeoman. Solid netminding was offered by Brendan Duke.

*Fax team reports and sports story ideas anytime to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943, or drop them off at 191 Main St. E.*



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