

'AA' midgets take 2-0 lead on Barrie in OMHA finals

Winterhawks deliver decisive shutout win in game two

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Kyle Goertz earned his second straight shutout for the midget AA Winterhawks Tuesday night at Memorial Arena.

But this time around, perfection between the pipes was simply a bonus rather than a necessity. That's because his teammates — who required flawless cage work and an overtime deposit to clinch the semifinals — beefed up their offensive efforts and brushed aside the Barrie Flyers 5-0 to take a two-games-to-none lead in the best-of-seven OMHA finals.

In front of another sizable crowd, the hosts struck before the contest was two minutes old and then put a hammerlock on the proceedings with three second-period goals — including a shorthanded backbreaker by Julian Ricci.

The Milton Toyota Winterhawks — currently riding a four-game win streak — spent much of period three killing penalties, but afforded their guests nothing even closely resembling a legitimate comeback window.

Kyle Burrell, Mark Galick and Michael Winiarz all

had a goal and an assist while also scoring was Chris Coates — who along with Scott McLaughlin and Brett Turner did a highly credible job turning back the visitors' powerplay.

Captain Connor Sweeney drew a pair of assists while single helpers were recorded by McLaughlin, Derek Blanchard and Adam Rutz.

Although not quite stealing the show like he did in game five against Stoney Creek, Goertz was every bit as sharp in a somewhat less demanding performance Tuesday. He made a couple of dynamite glove saves early on and persevered his goose egg down the stretch with a lightning-quick toe block.

Milton chased the opposing starter from the net with three goals on eight shots in the middle stanza and overall out-shot the Flyers 26-24.

The AA midget squad — now the flagship of the local hockey scene — travels to Barrie tomorrow afternoon for game three. If victorious, the Winterhawks will have a chance to sweep the championship series at Memorial Arena Sunday at 8 p.m.

If necessary, game five will be played in Barrie Tuesday.

'A' midgets' Tri County finals bid falls just one victory short

A Tri County finals berth quickly slipped away last weekend for the midget A Winterhawks.

Still undefeated heading into their last two round-robin games, the Winterhawks finished with a bit of a whimper — losing to Dundas 4-2 Saturday and Brampton 5-2 Sunday.

A victory in either contest would have qualified the locals for championship play. Instead, they placed third.

Sunday's defeat was particularly tough to swallow, since the hosts took a number of penalties as a result of undesired rough-housing with the generally confrontational Battalion.

This led to four powerplay goals against and a disappointing end to league play. Said coach Jim Kosmalski, "It was really poor officiating. They let a lot of Brampton stuff go and there was just a lot of confusion."

Barry Kosmalski scored on a solo effort in the second period and set up the initial goal, notched by offensive standout Josh Caswell.

Milton had a tough time killing off its penalties the previous day — surrendering three powerplay goals to Dundas. Thus an early lead vanished into thin air.

Kosmalski scored first in this one, while drawing within a goal of the hosts in the second period was

Chris Seto. Assists were registered by Nic Cashmore, Ian Kornack, Andrew McMaster and Dustin Smith.

Tim Johnston and Nathaniel Murray split the netminding duties last weekend and were both solid to keep things close.

The A midgets — who won three times as many games as last season — will now look to win their third tournament of the year when they close out 2001/02 play at their annual Milton Optimist Tournament March 31 to April 7.

"We've really had a good year and are hoping to add one more title before it's over," said Kosmalski.

Milton-based trio lead Burlington peewee girls team to successful year

A Milton-based trio has helped the Burlington Barracuda peewee girls team reach next month's provincial qualifying round by recently disposing of Mississauga 3-1.

Campbellville's Hannah Mott was between the pipes for the win — which capped a perfect 4-0 round-robin qualifying campaign against Mississauga and Oakville — while sinking the third-period game winner was Kilbride's Natasha Masciantonio.

Miltonian Katie Gorman offered gritty play at both ends of the ice and has been a diligent workhorse all season long.

Mott was between the pipes for all four qualifying games and allowed just three goals.

Burlington also won its annual friendship tournament recently with four straight wins including a 3-0

whitewash over Hamilton.

Mott earned the shutout and was named tournament MVP.

That shutout was her ninth this season while in league play she led the conference with a 1.54 goals-against average.

That plus dependable play from Gorman and Masciantonio — who's been one of the team's most reliable scorers this season — allowed the Barracudas to finish third in the regular season with a record of 14-6-4.

Burlington will now face Oakville in a best-of-three showdown for the right to compete in the provincial showcase April 5 to 7 at North York's Beatrice Ice Palace.

Next weekend, the Barracudas will be part of the annual Brampton Canettes Tournament.

Please fax all of your team reports and sports story ideas to Steve LeBlanc at 878-4943, or drop them off at 191 Main St. E. If office is closed, slide reports through mailslot.

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Milton Minor Hockey Association

Weekly House League Results

DATE	DIVISION	TEAM	SCORE	TEAM	SCORE
MAR	TYKE	AWESOME GAME PLAYED BY EVERYONE! BRUCE HOOD - MILTON PHYSIO - HUNT PLYMOUTH - MILTON FIREFIGHTERS CLUB			
MAR 16	PEE WEE	TOWNE DENTAL GROUP	10	ROSS DIXON FINANCIAL	6
		BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIR	5	SCOOTER'S SNACK SHACK	2
		HOME CINEMA VIDEO	3	DREAM CAR GARAGE	2
		CANADIAN TIRE	6	PRESSE LAW OFFICE	3
MAR 17	NOVICE	BRIAN'S AUTO REPAIR	3	SHOPPERS DRUG MART	2
		AUSTEN NOBLE INSURANCE	6	NUTECH RECRUITERS	1
		GOODLIFE FITNESS BLACK	4	GOODLIFE FITNESS RED	0
		GOODLIFE FITNESS GREEN	3	GOODLIFE FITNESS BLUE	3
MAR 18	SENIOR	KWIK KOPY	5	MILTON CHRYSLER DODGE	2
		KEY CENTRE	12	DOCS & DENTS	5
		JOHNSON CONTROLS	6	KENTUCKY FRIED CHICKEN	5
MAR 16	ATOM	GOODLIFE SKILLS CHALLENGE RESULTS			
		TOP SHOOTERS	FROM THE LION'S CLUB	JOSHUA WHITE, AND TYLER WILSON	
		TOP GOALTENDER	FROM GALLINGER FORD	JASE LAVIGNE	
		TOP TEAM	GUS MOBAY		

THIS WEEKEND IS THE LAST OF THE PLAYOFF GAMES, ... AND THEN THE FINALS !!!

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