

'AA' atoms edged out of Tri County championship

'Hawks battle back, but lose heartbreaker in OT

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

What a finish!

Milton's AA major atoms couldn't quite clinch championship gold at John Tonelli Sports Centre Tuesday evening — but few teams this season, if any, have looked as impressive in defeat.

The Wallace Pontiac Buick Winterhawks overcame an unproductive start and erased two separate deficits — the latter with just a couple of

minutes left in the third period — before being vanquished 5-4 in overtime by Caledon during the fifth and deciding game of the Tri County finals.

The hosts gave up two shorthanded goals in the opening half but were otherwise sturdy in their own end, and scored three times on the powerplay to force sudden death.

"I actually thought we were the better team tonight. We had lots of chances but just couldn't bury it in overtime," said head coach Gary Abraham.

"However, I'm real proud of these guys. They showed a lot of character in battling back. It was a great series."

Caledon's winning deposit came with about two minutes left in overtime, following half-a-dozen saves by hometown puck-stopper Taylor Prestidge.

He was finally beat with a backhand rebound at close range. Overall, Prestidge was challenged 20 times in the season-ending tilt. His Caledon counterpart faced two more shots.

Brayden Abraham led offensively with a hat-trick while also delivering a fierce finish to the year by assisting on all three of those goals was Scott Stover — who through most of the playoff run had been the marksman rather than the play-maker.

Matt Elliot also dented the twine while single

helpers were registered by captain Matt Jessup, Kris DelNin and Jeremy Price.

Price and fellow defenceman Brian Hunter offered strong positional play all night and turned back opposing snipers at least half-a-dozen times apiece.

Milton erased a 3-1 deficit by scoring on both halves of a two-man advantage late in the second and then capitalized on their final powerplay to push the deciding game to an extra session.

While the score would indicate otherwise, the evening showdown was defensively tight much of the way — with less than a dozen shots on net until the tail-end of the second period.

Correction

A sports story in Tuesday's Champion contained incorrect information.

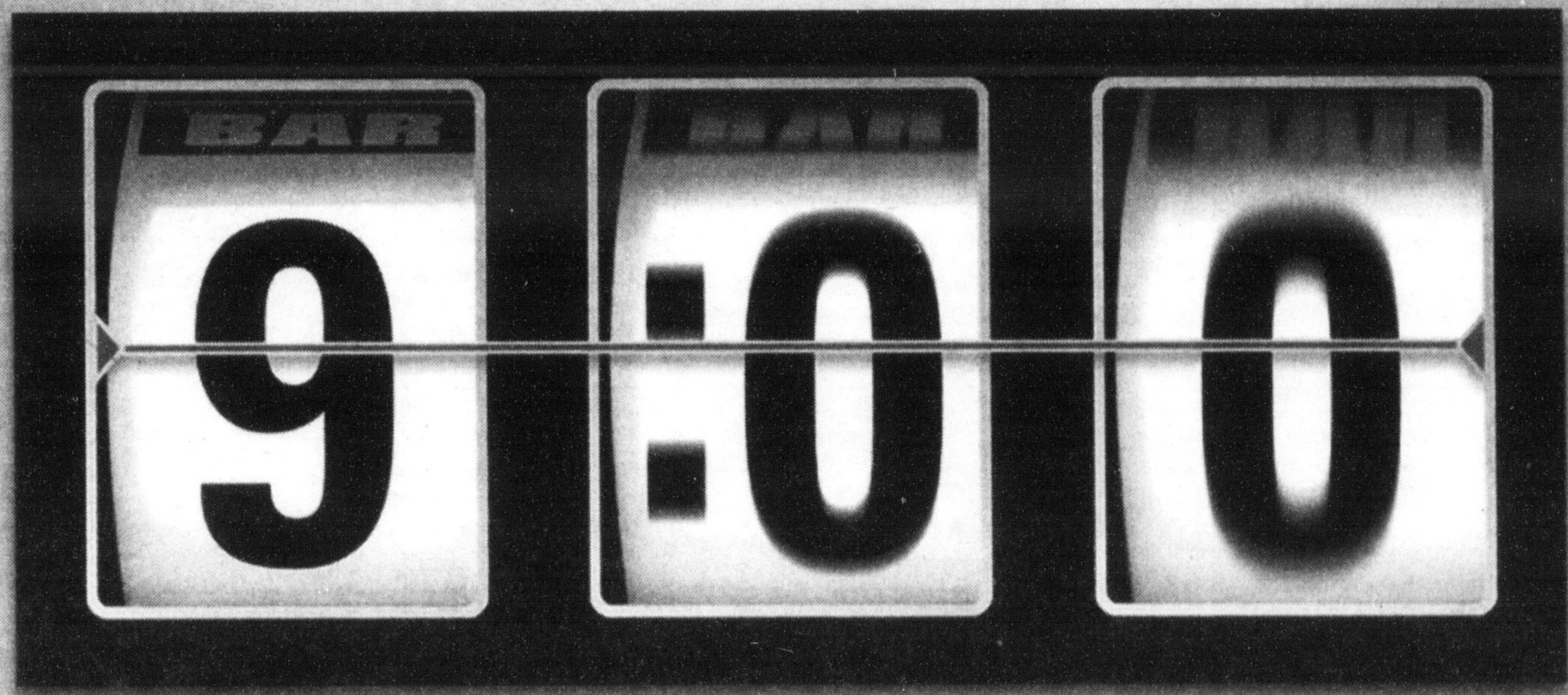
The article reported that Nutech beat Brian's Auto 4-3 in the bantam finals of the annual House League Championship Day.

In actual fact, it was Brian's Auto who defeated Nutech by that score. The sheet was inadvertently filled out wrong, so goal scorers for each side were incorrect as well.

As well, it was reported that in the minor peewee game Kevin Marshall won the goaltender's dual in Home Cinema's 3-1 victory over Canadian Tire when in fact Hunter Tate was the winning goalie.

The Champion regrets these errors as well as any inconvenience it may have caused.

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