



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 20, 2002



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Rowley rides high

Milton's Bob Rowley rode his way to a championship sweep in the 19 and up elite class at last weekend's Canadian BMX championships at Track 2000. He won all three motos and then delivered a decisive main event win. Above, Rowley flies over a jump to win the first moto and (top right) leads the pack over the fourth set of jumps en route to victory. Fellow Miltonian Alex Brancier (riding third at bottom right) suffered a knee injury on day one which cost him a shot at the national 17-year-old amateur title. Meanwhile, brothers Chris and Tim DeSilva took third and sixth in the 14 and 17-year-old amateur classes respectively.

Merchants edge Streetsville in OT

Ricci's winner punctuates chaotic clash with Derbys

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

Streetsville did an impressive job showcasing its future at Vic Johnston Memorial Arena Tuesday night — but efforts to preserve one element of its recent past fell a little short.

Stan Kalapaca's Derbys had won their first home game against Milton the last three years running, and his successors no doubt had hopes of continuing that trend.

However, Rob Ricci's overtime deposit spoiled that bid and pushed the Merchants' season-opening win streak to three.

Jumping all over a blueline giveaway by Matt Keating, Miltonian Craig MacDonald set up the extra-session goal to cap his third straight multi-point outing and help the visitors prevail 6-5.

Also assisting on the play was veteran blueliner Rick Janco.

The Merchants' sudden death heroics overshadowed what was at times a rather shoddy performance, with about as much attention to detail as is seen in the average game of shinny.

But back-up netminder Alex Evans got stronger as the night progressed — turning back a pair of breakaways with dynamite pad stops to highlight his 26-save Merchant debut — and his teammates got production down the stretch to keep themselves in a position to win.

Meanwhile, Streetsville looked like a team ready of exploit defensive miscues on a more frequent basis this season. Among those who're quite capable of that are Scott MacDonald — the centrepiece of five players traded from Georgetown to the Derbys this summer. The seasoned forward amassed five points Tuesday, while linemate Joel Petkoff delivered a hat-trick.

Milton was equally unforgiving during much of the defense-less evening. Lee Swallow tallied twice while singles were chipped in by MacDonald, Tyler Schremp and Pat Lee — who also drew a couple of helpers and now sits tied

with MacDonald atop the team points race with seven.

Sophomore Rich Meloche also had two assists. While visibly irked by a lack of structure in Streetsville Tuesday, head coach Mario Cicchillo had to be somewhat encouraged by the offensive results.

For the third time in as many games, the Merchants scored at least two goals in both the first and final frames. They've also out-shot the competition in all nine periods so far. On Tuesday, Milton out chanced the Derbys 48-31.

Merchant notes: Chad Kennedy of the Toronto Young Nationals midget team was the latest call-up defenceman to see spot duty in place of injured B.J. Gallant ... A hearing to decide the fate of Arthur Sawa and Nick Guirleo, whom the Merchants are hoping to acquire from Mississauga, has been pushed back to next Tuesday ... Milton hosts Brampton tonight at 7:30 p.m. and plays its College Weekend game against Cobourg tomorrow at 12:15 p.m. at Erin Mills Twin Arenas.

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