

MD volleyballers place second

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Milton District volleyball juniors had a bird's eye view of the standings after round robin play at Saturday's E.C. Drury Tournament.

But the Mustangs took an ego-bruising step back in championship pecking order, as a lack of execution cost them straight games against Grand River in the finals.

"Our attack just went sour," said co-coach Ulana Price of the 2-0 (17-25, 14-25) defeat.

MD looked poised to push the title match to the limit, taking an early lead in the second game — due largely to effective serving and a key hit by Dan Von Cube.

But Grand River regained control and put a 15-5 stranglehold on the festivities. The Mustangs clawed back a little at the end — with a handful of points — but were never really in a position to pull off a comeback.

Andrew MacKay delivered a few impressive serves in the dying moments of game two to make the final tally a bit more respectable.

Cody Williams' subpar spiking and a frequently

exposed back court were too much to overcome in the first game, as the eventual champs mounted an early lead and held off a closely trailing Mustang squad from start to finish.

Adam Clement had three aces in the opening round, but his team just couldn't seem to muster any kind of cohesion or momentum.

An hour earlier against Drury, MD reached the championship by disposing of their cross-town hosts 25-18, 25-12 in a rather lifeless semifinal clash which Price said offered a less than inspired tune-up for the finals.

Overall, Connor Mitchell provided a solid tournament effort and secured MVP honours for his team. Matt Price was another standout throughout the day.

Saturday's silver-medal finish — among nine teams — marked the latest chapter in a much-improved season for the junior Mustangs, who missed the playoffs last year but have already secured third place in Halton's Volpe Division heading into today's regular season finale at St. Thomas Aquinas.

They currently sit at 8-2 and ride a six-game winning streak.

Merchants continue their dominating run

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The Merchants battled teams at opposite ends of the Western Conference standings this past weekend.

But that was hardly apparent, judging solely by the final tally of each game.

Milton rubbed out both top-seated Hamilton and basement-dwelling Bramalea with equal efficiency — with 8-2 and 7-1 routs Friday night and Sunday afternoon respectively. The lopsided victories put the finishing touches on a prosperous five-wins-in-six-games stand at Memorial Arena.

The back-to-back blowouts also allowed the local juniors to overtake highly-touted Georgetown for third place.

Currently firing on all cylinders — with the possible exception of a somewhat undeveloped powerplay — the 11-3-1 Merchants grabbed early leads in both games and continued to earn dividends from a recently upgraded blueline unit.

Since returning from the Compuware Fall Classic Tournament in Michigan, Milton's defense has held the opposition under the two-dozen shot mark in all four games.

Cody Spicer was tested just 17 times by Hamilton Friday.

Much like the previous weekend when he netted a milestone of straight shutouts, his defense got tighter as the game wore on and allowed a measly three shots in the final frame.

Offensively, Rob Ricci highlighted a five-goal weekend with a hat-trick against the division leaders — scoring just 17 seconds apart in the first on close-range rebounds and finishing with

an upstairs wrister before the third period was a minute old.

He also assisted on a powerplay marker by Rich Meloche.

Other multi-point nights were provided by a handful of Merchants including veteran defenceman Rick Janco — who's starting to exhibit the two-way promise that went missing for much of his sophomore season in Milton.

Against Bramalea Sunday, Ricci ignited things again with straight goals late in the first after setting up Vic Oreskovich. Together with Meloche, the trio — with if left intact could be one of the top units in the conference and could be aptly dubbed the MOR line (Meloche, Oreskovich, Ricci) — collected 11 points.

Dennis Coulterman scored his second goal in as many games while also potting singles were Pat Lee, Tyler Schrepf and Craig Macdonald — now back from a wrist injury and centering a line with former Elmira College teammate Sean Kennedy, who was acquired this past week. Kennedy represents the fifth American player on the 2002/03 Merchants.

Spicer turned back 22 shots for his fifth win in as many league games, during which time he's allowed just four goals to distance himself from a touch-and-go September.

Merchant notes: Defenceman Shawn Mole was dealt to Burlington last week for cash while fellow blueliner Justin Nattress is on the trading block ... Milton is expected to name a captain and assistants after practice Sunday ... The Merchants finish a home-and-home series with Bramalea tonight at 7:45 p.m. at Victoria Park Arena.

'A' midgets still unbeaten

Milton's A midgets faced their stiffest test of the young season in Caledon Friday night.

And the Action Utility Trailer Winterhawks wound up taking the previously undefeated hosts to school — limiting them to just six shots and winning 3-1.

This pushed the local midgets' unblemished record to 8-0.

Milton had five times as many scoring opportunities as the Hawks — who include several players from last spring's OMHA

championship bantam team — and dented the twine in each period on the way to victory.

Ian Kornack potted goals two and three, while the initial deposit was made by Chris Whiting. Assists went to Tim Anderson, Derek Blanchard, Phil Foley, Greg Pepper and Kyle Strong. Largely idle between the pipes was Aaron Clarke.

The two teams concluded a home-and-home series last night at Memorial Arena. Results were not available at press time.

Thanks Nesbitt Burns for your support

MILTON VS BURLINGTON

Friday, November 1 @ 7:30pm
Memorial Arena - Thompson Road

DOOR PRIZES, DRAWS AND GIVEAWAYS

#1 in family entertainment

TICKET PRICES	
Adults\$8.00
Seniors/Students\$5.00
Children 12 & Under	..\$3.00

FROM OUR TEAM TO YOURS . . . WE ARE PLEASED TO SPONSOR THE MILTON JUNIOR A HOCKEY TEAM

Open an RRSP account by February 28th, 2003 and automatically be entered into our office draw for a set of Toronto Maple Leaf tickets.

Diana Bristow, Vice President & Senior Investment Advisor
35 Crawford Crescent, Campbellville, Ontario L0P 1B0
diana.bristow@bmo.com

Tel: (905) 854-4540
Toll Free: (800) 663-3571
Fax: (905)854-4544

Member "BMO (M-bar roundel symbol)" is a registered trade-mark of Bank of Montreal, used under licence. "Nesbitt Burns" is a registered trade-mark of BMO Nesbitt Burns Corporation Limited, used under licence.

Nesbitt Burns