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'A' midgets sidestep couple of landmines

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Milton's A midgets dodged a couple of bullets Sunday evening.

On the ice, they rallied from a third-period deficit to escape with a 4-2 decision over Hespeler — thus keeping a season-long winning streak intact.

And more importantly, head coach Chris Brennan found out that the threat of a season-ending suspension had been lifted.

The possible suspension stemmed from what he described as a simple communication breakdown regarding OMHA rule changes over instigator and aggressor penalties.

The Milton newcomer — who moved to town for work this fall — had been coaching junior hockey for the past three years and was still under the assumption that an instigator or aggressor penalty had to have a specific code attached to it on the scoresheet in order to warrant a suspension.

Under the new rules, no such code is needed.

This case presented itself on two separate occasions and — not realizing the changes — Brennan used those suspended players the following night.

"We didn't view it as anything more than the two minutes on the sheet," he explained, who said he wasn't brought up to speed about the rules by Milton Minor Hockey when he joined its coaching ranks this fall.

With two strikes against him by an OMHA executive deeming him to have knowingly broken the rules,

Brennan was told Saturday that his coaching duties this year could be finished.

That news came following an OMHA meeting attend by local ice scheduler and team trainer Scott Anders.

However, Tammy Parcels — Milton Minor Hockey's vice-president — straightened out the situation with league decision makers the following day and had things rectified before the midgets to the ice Sunday.

"It was certainly a big relief," said Brennan.

Sunday's decision came as great news for rep hockey fans, since the club represents perhaps the best shot at an OMHA championship this coming spring.

The A midgets' bench boss did have to serve a three-game suspension, which ended Monday night in Elora when the Action Utility Trailer Winterhawks extended their win streak to a remarkable 22 games with a 2-0 shutout.

Daniel Lynch and captain Kyle Strong did the scoring, while between the pipes for the team's 10th shutout of the season was Tim Johnston.

Greg Pepper assisted on goal number two.

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Hart-breaking return for boxer

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Matt Hart Jr. had gone nearly six months without a fight when he laced up his gloves for competition at Toronto's Atlas Boxing Club Saturday night.

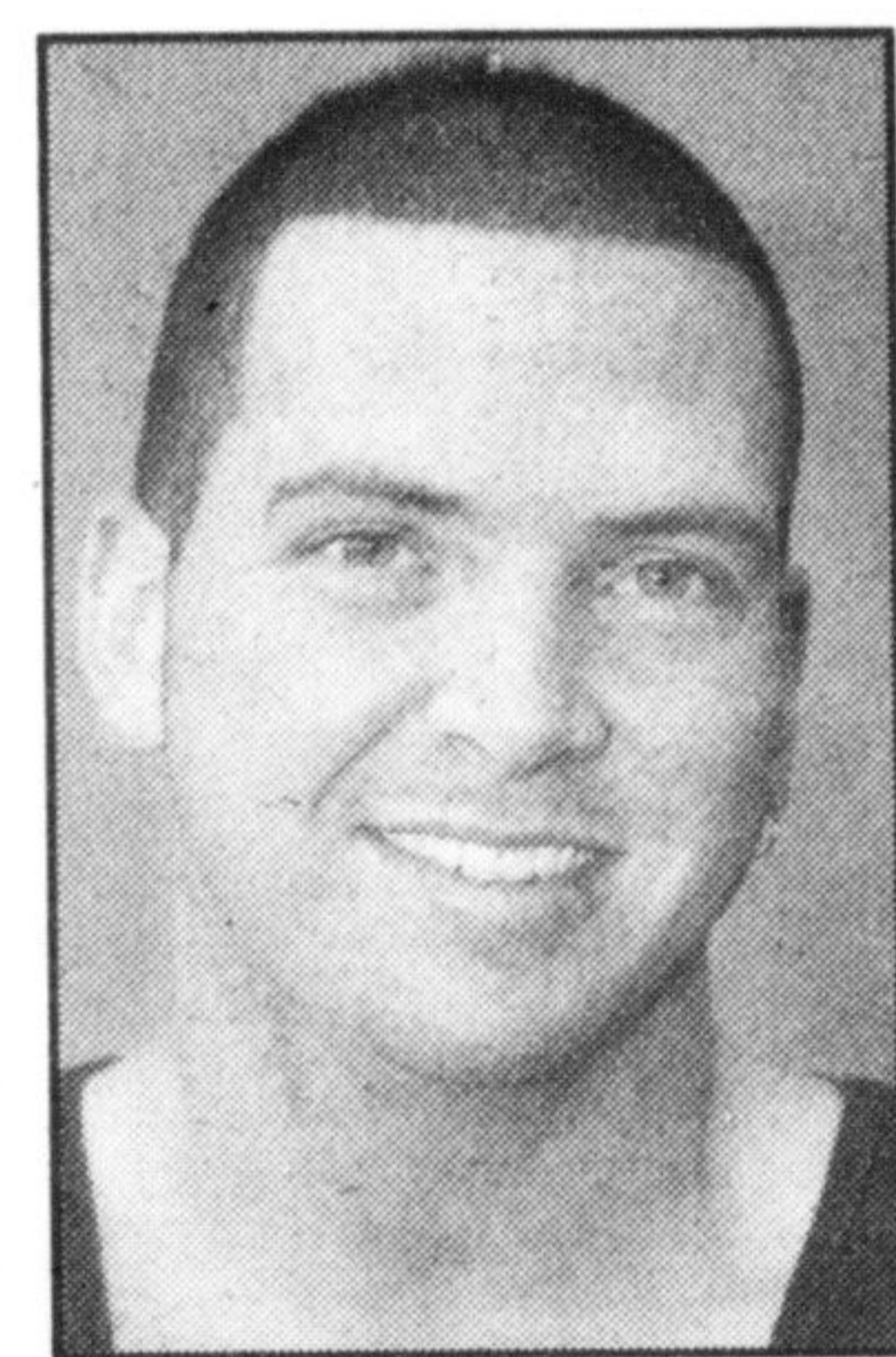
But the local boxer's desire to return to the ring wound up being overshadowed by a lacklustre and short-lived showdown with Brampton's Basilio Elizondo.

Milton's 25-year-old middleweight — by his own admission — was stuck in defense mode through the opening round, doing little more than picking off punches by Elizondo.

Not wanting an obvious off-night to escalate, coach Billy Martin stopped the fight in the early stages of round two — by which point a turnaround was clearly not in the cards.

"I don't blame my coach at all. I just wasn't showcasing Matt Hart," said the local pugilist, who describes the weekend return as his first legitimate loss under the tutelage of Martin.

"I felt really sluggish out there, and I think it had a lot to do with the layoff. I wasn't using my speed or letting my hands go.



Matt Hart Jr.

"Basically I beat myself, but I'm not too worried. This is amateur and I'm being groomed for the pros."

Hart Jr. — who in recent months has received advice from Egerton Marcus, a sparring partner of world champion Lennox Lewis — isn't too sure just how many punches he landed against Elizondo, but says it was well under his usual count.

He had a busy and near flawless eight-about run going before his lengthy layoff — which was due in combination to a torn chest muscle, a few missed opportunities at area racetrack cards and an opponent pull-out in Lockport, New York

September 20.

He also failed to get matched up for last month's provincial championships in Barrie.

However, Hart Jr. anticipates that the slow time is now over and expects to be back in form for a December 14 appearance at his training ground of the Bramalea Boxing Club.

"My coach has picked out the 10 top middleweights around, and we're tracking down every one of them," he said.

Milton Minor Hockey Association

MILTON MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION WEEKEND SCHEDULE

Tonelli Arena		BANTAM	
BEGINNER		Dec. 1 4:00 p.m. Home Cinema Video vs Canadian Tire	
Nov. 29 6:30 p.m. Timbits Yellow vs Timbits Red		5:15 p.m. Dream Car Garage vs Millweld Enterprises	
Nov. 30 8:00 a.m. Timbits Orange vs Timbits White		6:30 p.m. Presse Law Office vs Brian's Auto Repairs	
8:00 a.m. Timbits Green vs Timbits Black		7:45 p.m. Industrial Light & Electric vs Docs & Dents	
TYKE		MIDGET	
Nov. 30 7:00 a.m. Hunt Chrysler vs Mitam Stone Construction		Nov. 29 7:30 p.m. Chudleigh's vs Gus Mowbray Ltd.	
8:00 a.m. Berkshire Securities-Doug Eley vs Chudleigh's		8:45 p.m. Brian's Auto Repairs vs Absolute Transportation	
NOVICE		Dec. 1 9:00 p.m. Nu-Tech Recruiters vs Chudleigh's	
Dec. 1 2:00 p.m. Goodlife Fitness Blue vs Goodlife Fitness Red		SENIOR	
3:00 p.m. Goodlife Fitness Green vs Goodlife Fitness Black		Dec. 2 7:35 p.m. High Five Photography vs Key Centre	
ATOM		8:53 p.m. Johnson Controls vs Kwik Kopy	
Nov. 30 4:00 p.m. Nu-Tech Recruiters vs Investors Group		10:11 p.m. Total Team Image vs Milton Chrysler Dodge	
5:00 p.m. Gallinger Ford vs McCuaig Insurance		Memorial Arena	
6:00 p.m. Milton Firefighters Club vs Elsley Optical		PEEWEE	
7:00 p.m. Travel Choice vs Brian's Auto Repairs		Nov. 30 7:00 a.m. Nadalin Electric vs Austen & Noble Insurance	
		8:20 a.m. Brian's Auto Repairs vs Shopper's Drug Mart	
		9:40 a.m. Sears vs Towne Dental Group	

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