

# 'A' midgets dispose of Georgetown to reach semis

By MURRAY TOWNSEND

Special to The Champion

The Milton Action Utility Midget AE team is on their way to the OMHA semifinals after a series ending 5-2 win in Georgetown. The Winterhawks took the series three games to none, with one tie.

Sometimes you can say a win isn't pretty, but this one was. In an ugly sort of way. The Winterhawks were whacked, hacked and smacked, but the normally quick to retaliate squad kept their cool.

It was Georgetown's plan from the start of the series to attack Milton's soft underbelly and get them to take retaliation penalties, according to coach, Chris Brennan. "They tried to get underneath our skin. We had to be focused."

The actual game was over pretty quickly when Ian Kornack banged home a rebound on a shot by Kyle Strong 38 seconds into the game. A couple of minutes later, Strong set up Nik Cashmore for the second goal.

For most of the first period, the Winterhawks peppered the Georgetown goalie like one of those tennis ball machines. The only thing Georgetown could do was ice the puck or make sure they weren't holding onto it when Chris Whiting was on the ice. Whiting laid out at least half a dozen big hits during the game — not regular hits — but monster bangs.

Milton goaltender, Aaron Clarke, who could have done his homework for much of the first period, put down his history books and was beat on a fluky goal that went off a skate from a centering pass. Strong, who needs five more points for 100 for the season (including tournaments) and five more goals for 50, gave the

puck to Derek Blanchard, who took his time until he found Tim Anderson alone in front of the net for the third goal. Jesse Cabral sent Nole Coutrouzas in alone for the fourth and then Anderson rounded out the scoring with help from Blanchard and Dan Lynch.

The only thing missing from the start of the third period was an announcer screaming: "Let's get ready to rumble."

Georgetown was ready, and with nothing to lose, they spent much of the third period trying to start World War III. Even with sitting-out Georgetown players and friends from the stands calling Milton players a synonym for kitty cats, the Winterhawks were having none of it.

Milton spent the final frame laying back, working on a new system, and trying to get Anderson the hat-trick. And ignoring attempts to goad them into fights.

Coach Brennan was pleased with his team's play. He acknowledges that discipline isn't an easy challenge, especially at the midget age. The squad had 1,114 penalty minutes in 43 games going into the contest, but had just four on the night.

So did anybody in particular stand out in this game in the coach's mind? Brennan pointed to Blanchard, the team's penalty minute leader, praising his discipline, patience and faceoff skill.

Brennan, a former junior coach and scout, runs a tight ship, as evidenced by three players who were healthy scratches for the game. It sends a message that if you're late for practice or break any team rules, it's a breakdown in discipline and the team concept.

The Winterhawks now move onto the semifinals against either Ajax or Port Perry, it's believed.

Brennan thinks the team is in good shape to win the ultimate prize. "My only concern is if the guys lose their composure. If we maintain composure and discipline, I don't think anything can stop us."

If this game was any indication, nothing is going to stop them.



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# 'AA' midgets face elimination

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They had a slow start and a slow finish, but in between, the Midget AA Milton Toyota Winterhawks were dynamite in squaring their OMHA semifinal series against Woolwich Tuesday night at one game each.

Milton stumbled out of the blocks in the 4-3 victory. A power play goal, after Kyle Goertz had made a flurry of saves, put Woolwich up 1-0.

The Wildcats kept hammering away at the Winterhawks for most of the first period, but fortunately for Milton, they couldn't do a lot of damage before the Winterhawks started playing for real.

Milton dominated in the second. They swarmed the Wildcat net like photographers at a Michael Jackson appearance, and were rewarded for their efforts.

Chris Coates got things going when he took a shot that came right back to him off a Woolwich leg. He took another shot that instantly replayed itself back to his stick and was prepared to take a third when he lost his balance and passed instead to Adam Rutz. Rutz took a shot that did make it to the net and Mark Galick popped in the

rebound.

Then in quick succession, Lee Frittenberg scored on a rebound from a Robert Wilson shot, and Galick added to the lead after receiving a perfect pass for a break-away from Rutz.

Woolwich called timeout before things got completely out of hand and the coach appeared to be explaining to his team that there wasn't a No Trespassing sign in Milton's end.

Milton took a 4-1 lead on an Andrew Evans power play goal in the third and then decided to give themselves a well-deserved rest that almost cost them the game.

With about six minutes remaining, a Woolwich player found himself going in alone on Goertz to make the score 4-2 and three minutes later, the same thing happened to another Wildcat.

Woolwich threatened in the final minutes as Milton had problems getting the puck out of their own zone. Goertz had to come up big.

Standouts for Milton included Brett Turner on defense, with a couple of heavy bodychecks and good defensive plays that included a diving stop to break up a two-on-one. Coates, as usual, was a tireless worker, and drew a key penalty

when he was the only forward on the ice during a two-man advantage.

Most impressive for Milton was the line of Matt Price, Evans, and David Tielemans. Every time they got on the ice they were a threat to score, and were tenacious and successful in their forechecking.

Coach Arnie Parcells didn't feel the team was able to keep the puck down low in the offensive zone, explaining the late collapse. "We've got to execute the game plan right down to the buzzer."

Woolwich played in the same league as Milton during the regular season and were near the top of the standings, so Parcells isn't showing any lack of respect for their skill. "They're a decent team. We have to eliminate their time and space to eliminate quality opportunities and odd-man rushes."

With Woolwich winning game one by a 3-2 score, the series figures to be close all the way. On Wednesday in Elmira, Woolwich won game three, 3-1. The teams will be back in Milton tomorrow at 8 p.m. at Thompson Arena and play Sunday in Elmira. Game five, if necessary, will be in Milton Monday night at 9:15.

# Sr. 'Stangs trimmed in semifinal

By MURRAY TOWNSEND

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They made it interesting, but in the end they just ran out of gas.

Milton District's senior boys basketball lost 60-53 in the Halton semifinals against Notre Dame.

The Mustangs, playing at home, looked as if they were going to run away with it at the start of the game. Justin Stanley stole the ball at half court and drove for the two-handed dunk to get things going, Johnny Christnik connected on one of his patented drives, and Milton was up 10-4 before the Irish knew what hit them.

Once the Irish knew what was hitting them, they adjusted, and adjusted well. They started to put pressure on the Mustangs, cut down the lane against Christnik, and used their speed and passing ability to move the ball around.

Notre Dame went on a nine-point run to start the second quarter to go up 18-12. Milton District responded with a six-point run of their own to tie and went to the dressing room at half-time down 25-22.

The Irish had a deep bench and kept running players in and out of their lineup, while the Mustangs basically stuck with their starting five. That allowed Notre Dame to maintain their pressure, forcing turnover after turnover, and to tire out the Milton squad.

Notre Dame was hitting their shots, especially from beyond the three-point line, and Milton wasn't. The Irish even had time to work on their off-season football plays. Every time Christnik attempted to go to the hoop, he was gang tackled before he even got close.

Notre Dame built up a 44-33 lead against the tired Mustangs, but Milton battled back. A three-pointer by Christnik and a foul shot by Kyle Goertz brought them

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