

'A' midgets in finals

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

Chris Brennan is hoping the old adage 'third time's a charm' holds true this month.

Having come up short in two OMHA finals with AAA teams from Guelph and Waterloo, the seasoned minor hockey coach will be looking to make championship bid number three — with this year's Milton A midgets — the golden one.

"I'd say this team is better poised to win a championship (than the previous two)," suggested Brennan Tuesday morning, after his local lads booked passage to the league title series the previous night with a 6-1 victory in Ajax.

While the Action Utility Trailers Winterhawks will no doubt face stiff competition from either Tecumseh or Caledon — who're still battling for the other championship berth, with Tecumseh up two-games-to-none — it's safe to say the OMHA crown is theirs to win or lose. After all, Milton has bested both prospective opponents this season and remains undefeated in playoff action — averting its closest brush with defeat with Sunday's 2-1 overtime victory at Memorial Arena.

Clearly dejected about falling just shy of squaring the best-of-five semifinal series, Ajax wasn't able to offer the same resistance during game three Monday.

Milton took the wind out of their sails from the onset — mounting a 4-0 cushion in the first period — and then cruised to victory the rest of the way.

Earning a second straight start following his gem performance the night before, Tim Johnston was sharp but largely untested in the series-clinching win — facing just nine shots.

Meanwhile, Milton fired more than three dozen shots the other way and did a great job containing the puck in enemy territory. This allowed for second and third opportunities, which kept the opposing goalie off balance and unable to slam the door on the Winterhawks like he did Sunday.

"We were working our game better Monday," explained Brennan.

Kyle Strong was moved over to the wing to allow him to go to the net more, and the move paid off with the midgets' captain delivering a hat-trick. This gives him 49 goals on the year and pushed his season points total to 102.

Phil Foley and Chris Whiting also stood out with impressive two-way efforts, contributing in their own end as well as on the scoresheet. Each buried the biscuit, as did Tim Anderson.

Chipping in two assists apiece were Adam Clerici and Ian Kornack.

Now Milton has a chance to rest up for the finals — which will probably start next weekend, most likely against Tecumseh.

Skating sisters good as gold at jr. national championships

Viscontis' Brampton Gold Ice squad caps stellar year with Canadian title

Mission accomplished!

Putting the finishing touches on a near-perfect season, the Brampton Gold Ice synchronized skating team — which includes Milton sisters Alicia and Melissa Visconti — realized its national gold-medal hopes last weekend at the Canadian junior championships in Montreal.

"It's really fulfilling, a great way to end the year," said 18-year-old Melissa.

Added 16-year-old Alicia, "It's indescribable, it's awesome. We all cried a lot afterwards."

The Gold Ice contingent — which won five of six events this season, and struck silver at the other — not only beat fellow favourites Burlington and Les Supremes of Quebec, but did so in decisive fashion.

The eventual champs had a sizable lead after last Friday's short program, and maintained it with another dynamite effort during the long program Saturday.

"I'd say they were our best performances of the season," recalled Melissa. "Everything just came together."

The national victory will afford the Brampton Gold Ice team international assignments next season.



Alicia (left) and Melissa Visconti

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Under-19 Magic fall short

Close only counts on horseshoes and hand grenades. But Milton's Under-19 girls are no doubt wishing indoor soccer were part of that list — after coming within a heartbeat of reaching League Cup semifinal play in Vaughan Saturday.

The Sargent Farm Magic — one of the province's most improved teams this winter — fell just one goal shy of advancement, tying Newmarket 1-1 in the last quarterfinal round-robin game where only a victory would push them through.

Erinn Greenfield powered her way to the opposing cage and buried an Amy DiPalma rebound to erase an early deficit. But from there the local ladies could produce no more, despite a number of quality chances down the stretch. Providing exceptional defense were Ashley Grant, Erin Grevstad and Ruth Hamon.

Coming this close to the semifinals speaks volumes about the short order progress made by the Magic, who as league newcomers last year managed only one win and were in no position to chal-

lenge the province's top teams.

It's been a whole different story this season, as the team knocked off defending champion Pickering 2-1 in the League Cup's preliminary round and were beaten just 1-0 by last year's finalist Thunder Bay Saturday morning to start the quarterfinal round. Said assistant coach Rachele DiPalma, "We certainly demonstrated that we can compete with some of the province's best teams."

The Newmarket tie was the second straight stalemate of the day for Milton. The first was of the scoreless variety against London Forest — who was stifled by the likes of Hamon, Erica Ercolani, Krista Lenardon and Heather Moon.

What they couldn't stop, netminder Emma Goddard did in impressive fashion to preserve the shutout. Up front, Ashley Rainey, Val Fazio and Kelsey Orpin offered plenty of pressure but just couldn't dent the twine.

The Magic resume regular-season play Sunday against Bolton.

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Weekly House League Schedule		Milton Minor Hockey Association	
		MILTON WINTER HAWKS.COM	
Tonelli Arena		BANTAM	
BEGINNER		Mar 9 4:00 p.m. Brian's Auto Repair vs Presse Law Offices	
Mar 7	6:30 p.m. Timbits Red vs Timbits Green	5:15 p.m. Dream Car Garage Docs and Dents	
Mar 8	7:00 a.m. Timbits White vs Timbits Yellow	6:30 p.m. Canadian Tire Home Cinema Video	
	8:00 a.m. Timbits Orange vs Timbits Black	7:45 p.m. Industrial Light and Electric Millweld Enterprises	
TYKE		MIDGET	
Mar 8	9:00 a.m. Chudleigh's vs Mitam Stone Construction	Mar 7 7:30 p.m. Chudleigh's vs Absolute Transportation	
	10:00 a.m. Hunt Chrysler Dodge vs Berkshire Securities-Doug Eley	8:45 p.m. Nu-Tech Recruiters vs Gus Mowbray Ltd.	
NOVICE		Mar 9 9:00 p.m. Scooters Snack Shack vs Brian's Auto Repair	
Mar 8	2:00 p.m. Goodlife Fitness Black vs Goodlife Fitness Red	SENIOR	
	3:00 p.m. Goodlife Fitness Blue vs Goodlife Fitness Green	Mar 10 7:35 p.m. Milton Chrysler Dodge vs High Five Photography	
ATOM		8:53 p.m. Johnson Control vs Key Centre	
Mar 8	4:00 p.m. Travel Choice vs Gallinger Ford	10:11 a.m. Total Team Image vs Kwik Kopy	
	5:00 p.m. McCuaig Insurance vs Nu-Tech Recruiters	Memorial Arena	
	6:30 p.m. Milton Firefighter's Club vs Brian's Auto Repair	PEEWEE	
	7:00 p.m. Investor's Group vs Elsley Optical	Mar 8 7:00 a.m. Nadalin Electric vs Austen and Noble	
		8:20 a.m. Brian's Auto Repair vs Shoppers Drug Mart	
		9:40 a.m. Sears vs Towne Dental Group	

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