

# OMHA win caps huge year for 'Canes

Aided by a local foursome, Halton's AAA minor peewees capped a wildly successful season with OMHA gold late last month in Whitby.

The Milton Toyota Hurricanes — who included Miltonians Jake Davis, Brandon Denham, Scott Dermott and Michael Sgarbossa — went 2-1-1 in round robin play and then clinched top honours with a 3-2 nail-bitter over the championship hosts March 28.

Overcoming a pair of one-goal deficits made the title triumph that much sweeter.

Davis sank both a first-period equalizer and the third-period winner — with under seven minutes remaining — to secure MVP honours, while Sgarbossa evened things up in the second.

Denham played through the pain of an ill-timed leg injury — specifically a nasty cut above his left ankle, sustained in the second round — to aid in the narrow victory.

The title win was pay-back for a 5-0 loss to Whitby March 27 — a game that meant nothing in terms of championship advancement, and in which the Hurricanes were down to just three defencemen.

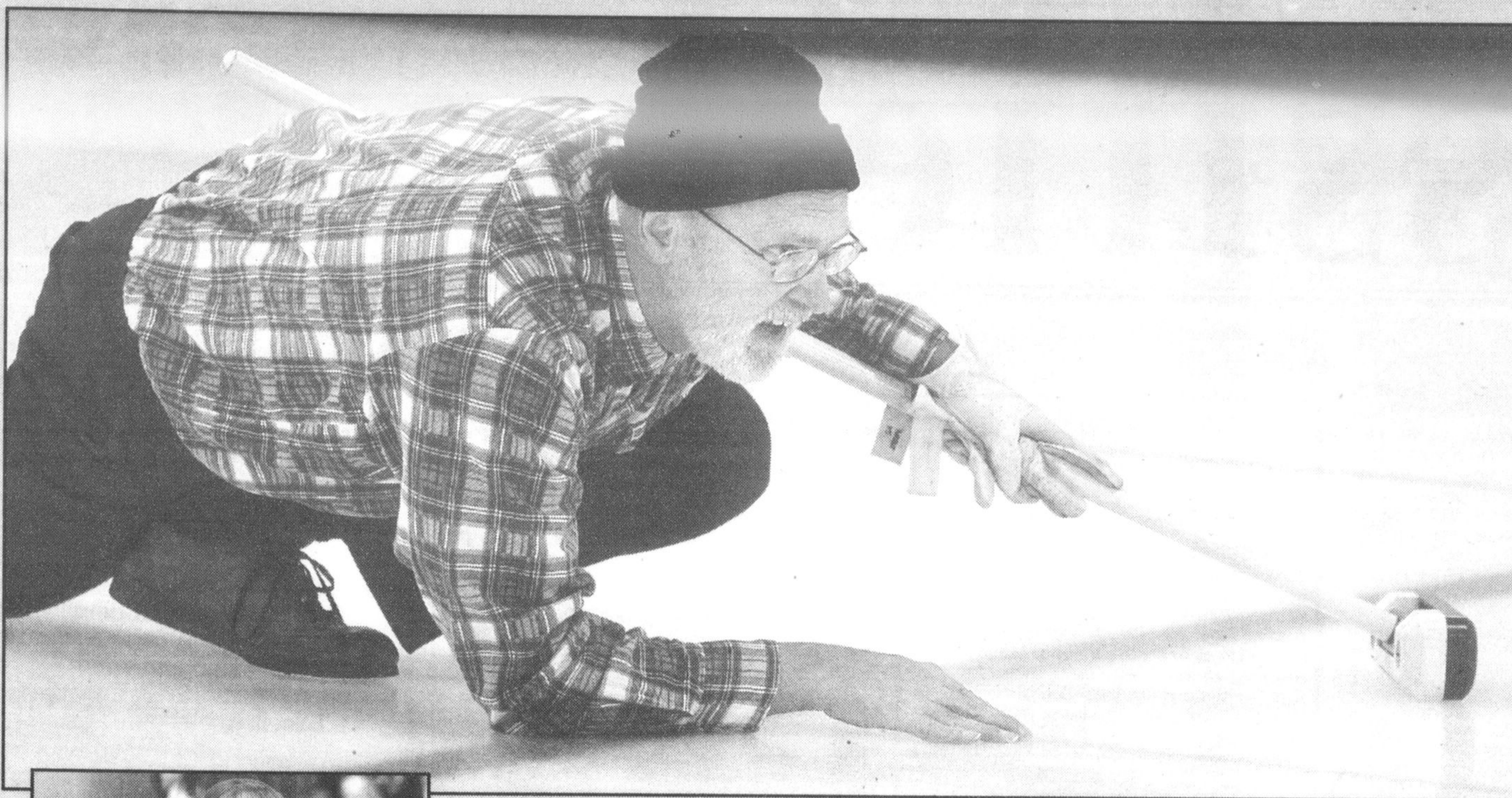
Halton kicked off the tournament with a 3-2 squeaker over Markham — in which Sgarbossa contributed an unassisted marker — and highlighted the round robin with an 8-0 shellacking of Burlington. Davis, Dermott and Sgarbossa all collected points in the third-round rout.

Sandwiched between these victories was a 2-2 draw with York-Simcoe.

This marked the fourth straight year in which this group of boys came home with an OMHA medal — taking two golds and a pair of bronzes. Denham, Dermott and Sgarbossa have been onboard for all four seasons, while Davis joined the championship ride last year.

The Hurricanes' most recent title drive followed playoff sweeps of Guelph and St. Catharines. Overall, Halton went an amazing 66-3-4 this past season and won five tournaments along the way.

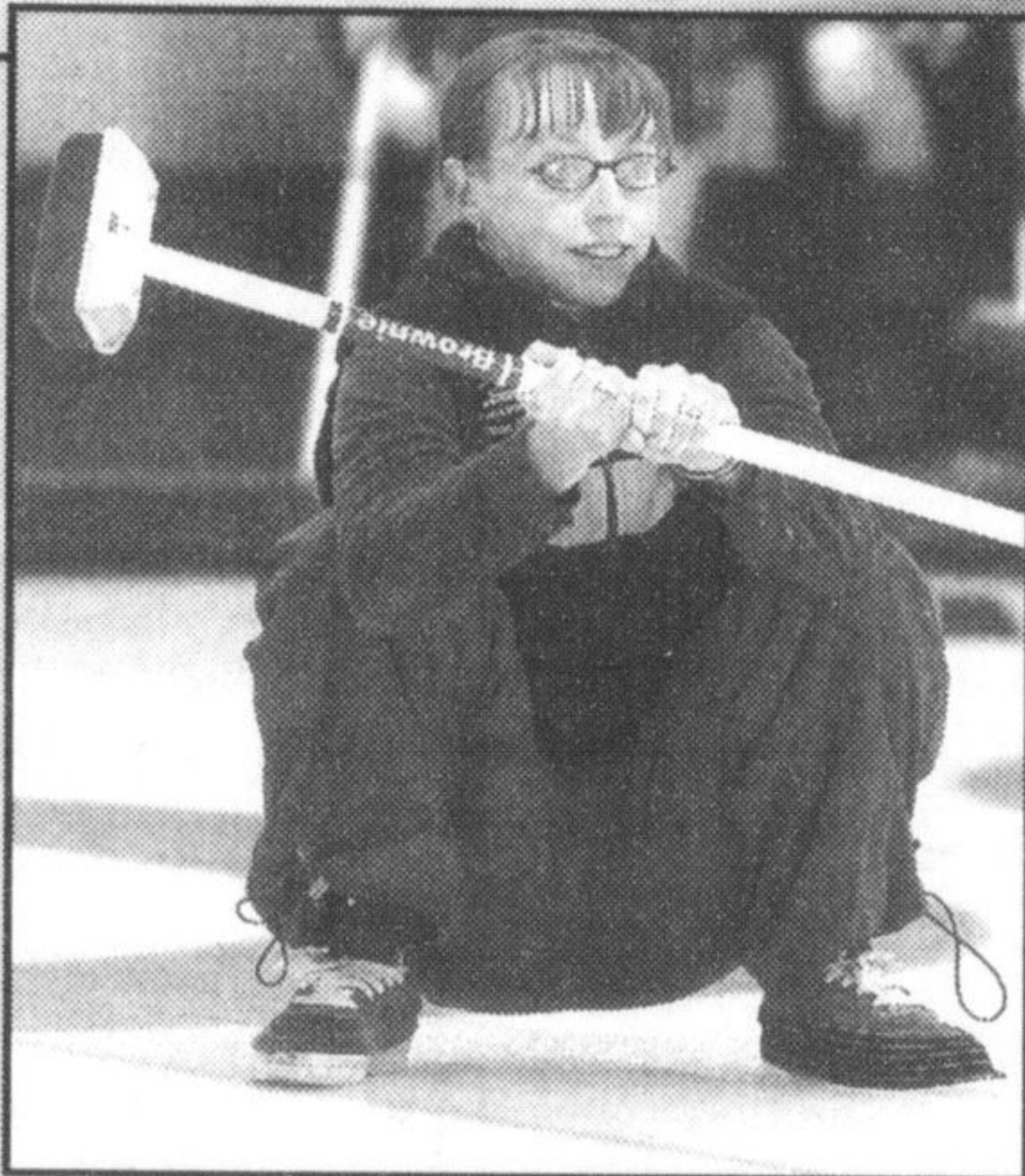
Their Milton foursome showed strongly all year, particularly on the offensive side of things.



## Local curlers rock the house — one last time this season

Alan Davidson watches his rock curl from his vantage point close to the ice surface while (inset left) fellow curler Kathryn Bishop watches her own rock head towards its intended target during Milton's season-ending Town and Country Bonspiel Saturday. The overall champions were Anita MacDougall (skip), Shauna Litke (vice), Bill Knowlton (second) and Stephanie Hall (lead). Maxine Gaddy was recognized as volunteer of the year.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE



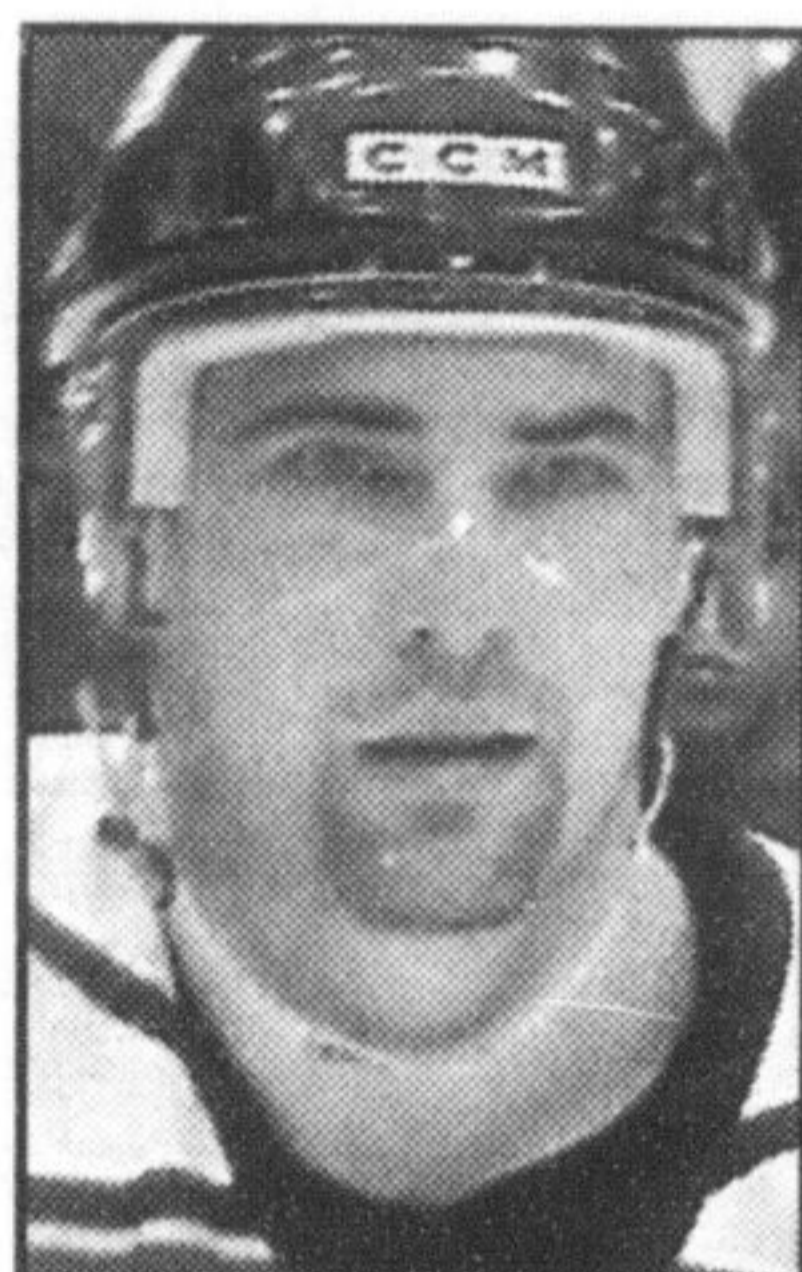
## Bertoli's ECHL Titans miss playoffs

Scott Bertoli has had a lot of firsts throughout his professional hockey career.

But Saturday marked one that he wasn't exactly looking forward to — as his Trenton Titans missed the playoffs for the first time in his five-year tenure in the ECHL.

The deck was stacked against Trenton heading into the night, with both a win over the Johnston Chiefs and a Reading Royals loss needed to make post-season play. Neither happened, as Reading prevailed and the Titans were doubled 4-2.

"For sure, it's a big disappointment," said the 27-year-old Miltonian, who's among the original Titans and arguably their most valuable performer over the past half-decade. "With about 25 games to go we knew it'd be a tough road ahead, being about eight to 10 points out. We put ourselves back in position to grab the final playoff spot and won



Scott Bertoli

scoring.

His assist count fell just three shy of his team record of 46, established in 2001/02. That year he also set the franchise benchmark for points with 71.

eight of the last 13 games. I guess it just wasn't good enough."

From a personal performance standpoint, Bertoli has to be feeling fairly good about the 2003/04 season. The former Princeton Tiger broke the 60-point plateau for the third time in five years — collecting 19 goals and 42 helpers in 57 games to finish second in team

Saturday he notched Trenton's final goal of the season, a powerplay deposit with about six minutes remaining.

A model of consistency since turning pro, the well-rounded left winger has 348 points (regular season and playoffs combined) in 349 games with the Titans.

Bertoli said he expects to be back in Trenton next season — but will return under new direction, as head coach Bill Armstrong has opted not to renew his contract.

Meanwhile, fellow Miltonian Daryl Knowles and his Mississauga IceDogs evened their second round OHL series at one win apiece with a 2-1 overtime decision against Barrie Sunday evening.

Game three is tonight at the Hershey Centre.

Knowles was back in the line-up Sunday after missing two games with a minor arm injury.

## Three Winterhawk teams fall just short of Optimist victory

• from MINOR PEEWEES on page 22

the finals, only to be vanquished when tournament hardware was on the line.

Championship defeat was especially tough to swallow for the midgets and minor atoms — who were edged by the narrowest of margins Sunday.

The midgets even held the upper hand for a short time — thanks to the first of two goals by Nick Vipond — before being eclipsed 3-2 by Innisfil.

Three unanswered goals against were the difference maker in a spirited rematch from Milton's 5-3 round-robin loss to Innisfil Friday night. Delivering some key saves to keep things tight in the finals was James Connor.

Milton's minor atoms overcame two separate deficits in round-robin play against West London,

but there was no evening things up during their championship rematch.

The Winterhawks would cut a 2-0 lead in half late in the second period, but drew no closer down the stretch. Matt Psenicka stoned West London through the final two periods to keep comeback hopes alive, while Quinn Kerr notched the lone tally.

Meanwhile, the bantam Winterhawks had a rather humbling follow-up to their unbeaten round-robin campaign — getting blanked 3-0 in the finals by Flamborough.

Unable to solve David Feere, Milton fell behind midway through the opening frame and just couldn't recover.

Kevin Marshall kept things respectable to close out an impressive tournament showing.



## Drury girls suffer quick exit at hockey provincials

E.C. Drury's girls hockey team had a rather rough ride at OFSAA's A/AA championships last week in Pembroke.

The Spartans — who beat Oakville's Q.E. Park Eagles 2-0 on shoot-out a month earlier to reach the provincials — dropped three straight games, including a 4-2 decision to Ottawa's St. Paul Golden Bears last Tuesday.

On March 29, Drury suffered back-to-back shutout losses to Collingwood area teams — 4-0 to the Sacred Heart Crusaders and 6-0 to the Jean Vanier Storm, who went on to win the title with a 5-0 white-wash of Sudbury's Lockerby Vikings Tuesday evening.

This marks the second straight year that a Drury team — excluding wrestling — has reached OFSAA. The Spartans' senior girls volleyball team went to the AA cham-

pionships last year and came away with the consolation title.

This year's Drury girls hockey team went 5-2-2 through the regular season, finishing fifth in Halton's Richardson Division. The Spartans went on to edge the Aldershot Aces 3-2 in first-round play before falling 5-0 to the Notre Dame Fighting Irish.

In other high school action, Bishop Reding and Milton District each sent a pair of basketball all-stars to the Halton Classic at White Oaks in Oakville March 26.

Joey MacSween (senior) and Niall Clarke (junior) of BR and Milton District's Darryl Meinen (senior) and Dan Von Cube (junior) all represented the Richardson Division — which beat the Volpe loop 105-92 in the senior clash and fell 78-72 in junior play.