

# Haydar and Admirals advance

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

Bring on Rochester.

Not wanting to take any chances with a winner-takes-all seventh game showdown, Darren Haydar and his AHL Milwaukee Admirals rallied from a late deficit and eclipsed the Chicago Wolves 4-3 in double overtime Friday night.

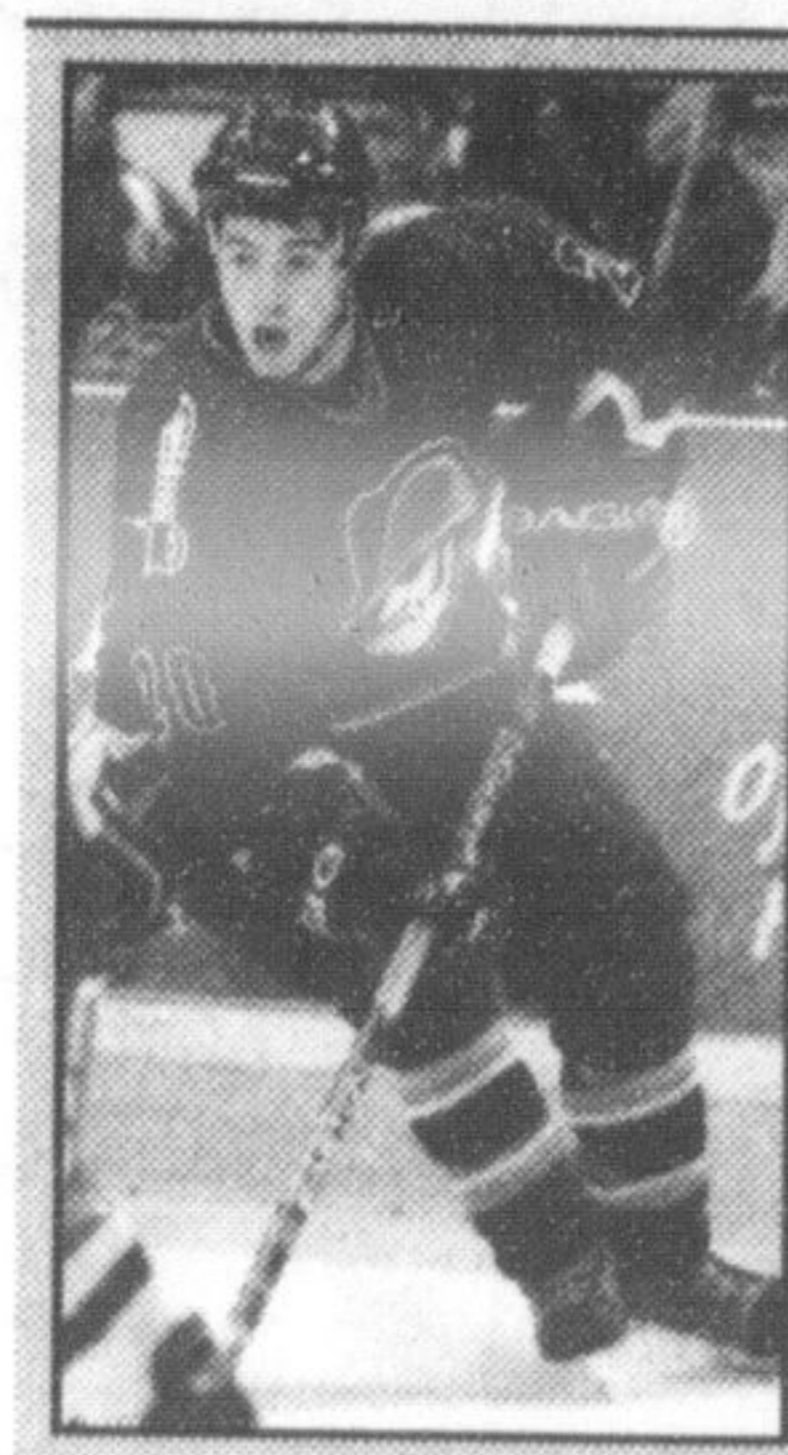
The game-six triumph cemented division bragging rights for the regular season champion Admirals, who're now set to battle the red-hot Rochester Americans in the Western Conference finals.

Haydar drew two assists in the series clincher, including one on defenceman Andrew Hutchinson's third-period equalizer.

"Two of us were battling for the puck in the corner. I poked it out to Andrew and he cut to the middle and wired a nice shot that had eyes," said Haydar.

Teammate Mathieu Darche would then score on the breakaway with 4:06 left in the second sudden death frame to oust Chicago.

Added Haydar, "It felt great to put it



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**DARREN HAYDAR**

away. I don't think any of us wanted to go home for a seventh game after losing two in a row."

Friday marked the fifth multi-point playoff game for Milton's 24-year-old sniper, who's currently in a three-way tie for second in post-season scoring with six goals and nine helpers — trailing only Domenic Pittis of Rochester.

He's also gained some consideration among fans for playoff MVP.

Overall, Haydar has 153 points since joining Milwaukee last season — with production split pretty much evenly between

his rookie and sophomore campaigns.

Enjoying home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs, the Admirals host games one and two of the conference finals tonight and Thursday.

If victorious against Rochester, Milwaukee will take on either Hartford or Wilkes-Barre/Scranton for the Calder Cup.

The Admirals — who began and ended their division finals with double-overtime wins — beat the Americans 5-1 and 2-1 in their only two meetings of the regular season.

Meanwhile, it appears as though native Miltonian Craig Brush — general manager of the Florida Everblades — is going to have to wait at least another year for ECHL's top prize.

His Everblades currently trail Idaho 2-0 in the Kelly Cup finals, losing 5-1 Friday and 6-4 Saturday on home ice. With Idaho hosting the next three games — starting tomorrow evening — the chances of a series turnaround seem rather bleak.

Florida reached the finals for the first time in its six-year history by disposing of Reading in five games.

## Milton marathoners shine in Cincy

Milton Runners went the distance in Cincinnati May 2 — delivering a near-perfect completion rate and some impressive individual efforts at the Flying Pig Marathon.

Only one of 25 local participants failed to cover the 42.2-km course, that with morning showers was as rainy as it was hilly.

Leading the way with a sensational 3:01.40 performance for 12th place honours in the men's 35 to 39-year-old division was Glen McLay, who was the second Canada male finisher and 48th overall among the men.

For the women, Nancy Cole-Hryciw — fresh off a rather disappointing showing at last month's Boston Marathon — shone with a time of 3:27.27.

That was good enough to take the women's 50-54 class, by a whopping 18 minutes, as well as place first among Canadian ladies and 26th among women overall.

Dale Thibideau's 3:26.50 earned him third place in the 55 to 59-

year-old men's category, while Pat Birnie was second among women 45 to 49, clocking in at 3:34.01. Her finish was identical to husband Ian.

Eight other Miltonians cracked the four-hour mark, while rookie marathoner Rene Petroski came within six minutes of doing so. Fellow first-timers Martin Stanley, John Sliemers and Gloria Hewitt successfully negotiated the course as well.

Other finishers were Trigg Hall, Ken Shelton, Calvin Snow, Cindy Johnston, Sonia Boucher, Fraser Hansen, Mark Hurtig, Todd Corradetti, Courtney Warner, Cathy Hall, Kathie Key, Connie Hearty, Martin Carney, Jack Hewitt and birthday girl Janice Snow — whose racing cohorts threw her a major bash on a river boat.

This marked the Milton Runners' biggest single marathon contingent. A number of participants delivered personal best times, making the weekend excursion that much more successful.

## IceHawks' coach pleased with rookies

The rebuilding has begun.

Welcoming 155 hopefuls to the recent rookie evaluation camp at Milton Sports Centre, IceHawks head coach/general manager George Dupont said he was quite pleased with the turnout.

"I think we'll be taking a much stronger group to Guelph this year," he said, referring to the potential rookies who'll be invited to take part at next month's OHA Referee School Tournament at the University of Guelph. "We had a lot of good, high-end players out."

Among those attending the three-day prospects camp were Mississauga IceDog hopefuls Stefan Legein and Adam Simms,

as well as fellow OHL draftees Mark Pawlowski, Dan Brewer, Jarrett Noiles and Shea Kewin — a fourth-round pick of the Ottawa 67s.

The IceHawks were looking for a bit of everything from the camp, with this year's player exodus cutting deep into both the blueline and forward ranks.

Up front, Wes Clark and Jonathan Ornelas are off to the NCAA while Ryan McInerney and Brad Snetsinger will likely be lost to the OHL. On defense, the IceHawks will need to find replacements for over-age cornerstone Matthew French, NCAA-bound Andrew Bonello and up-and-coming Jason Fortino — a third-round

pick of the Belleville Bulls.

Meanwhile, goaltender Jamie Flury will join Bonello at Division 1's Robert Morris University.

Said Dupont, "We've got nine or 10 guys eligible to come back, but we're probably going to be even younger than last year. Right now Thomas Lee and Adam Pileggi are our only 20-year-olds."

Recruiting continues in mid-June with a first-time American-only camp in Michigan.

Standout performers at the OHA Referee Tournament, which runs from June 19 to 22, will be invited back for the IceHawks' main camp in mid-August.

## Mavs' skipper pleased despite losing two more

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

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Call it a victory — at least of the moral variety.

In desperate need of something to build on, the Jr. B Mavericks delivered their best second-half performance of the season against the formidable Markham Ironheads Friday night at John Tonelli Sports Centre.

The 12-10 loss didn't do much to combat Milton's basement-dwelling status, but it was certainly a step in the right direction — given the number of humbling losses suffered this spring.

"It was probably the first game we've played with real intensity," said head coach Trevor Reid. "Our defense was getting to the loose balls and our tempo was generally good."

Even goalie Chris Ingraham worked his way out of the proverbial dog house — at least to some extent — with a far less leaky effort.

Added Reid, "Overall, he did pick up his game."

The Mavericks put themselves in position to win by upstaging Markham 4-1 in the second period, after getting stung on a number of rash penalties early on.

Jon Sweetland fueled the comeback bid with three goals in the second half, and five points overall. Captain Kyle Goertz, Troy Hazzard and Jon Ram each tallied twice, while Mike Novak contributed a season-high four assists.

The Ironheads amassed five powerplay goals in the first half and enjoyed a balanced attack throughout the night on the way to their sixth season victory. Among their goal scorers was former Miltonian Creighton Reid. Now residing in Whitby, the Markham rookie scored late in the first and assisted on goal number nine early in the third.

Milton held its guests to a respectable five goals in the last two frames, primarily because of fortified man-to-man coverage and a sharp reduction in trips to the sin bin.

The Mavericks' 10-goal night was their second highest output so far this year.

Unfortunately, Milton couldn't carry that production into Nepean Saturday evening.

Clearly out of gas and overwhelmed by their more skilled hosts after a rather spirited start, the Mavericks scored just three times in the final two periods and were dumped 16-7.

However, Reid stressed that his team was generally solid on the night and received a fairly decent showing from Ingraham. He added, "Nepean's just got more stick skills than us."

Milton didn't get much in the way of offensive spark beyond Goertz, who tallied twice and added three helpers. Hazzard potted a pair, while a returning Matt Bolton chipped in a goal and an assist.

Now 1-7, the Mavericks will need a wildly successful second half to have any kind of hope for post-season play. They have only one game this week, a road trip to Mimico Thursday night.

## Conventry rallies to claim third Gold Series elimination

Three-year-old trotting colt Coventry emerged from the shadows at Mohawk Racetrack Saturday evening to capture the third Gold Series Elimination of his career in impressive style.

In rein to owner and trainer Doug Ackerman, the Mr. Lavec son eased out of post two and delivered classic come-from-behind tactics to post a 1:58.2 victory — hitting the wire two lengths up on favourite Eric's Image and four lengths ahead of third-place finisher Armbro Balance.

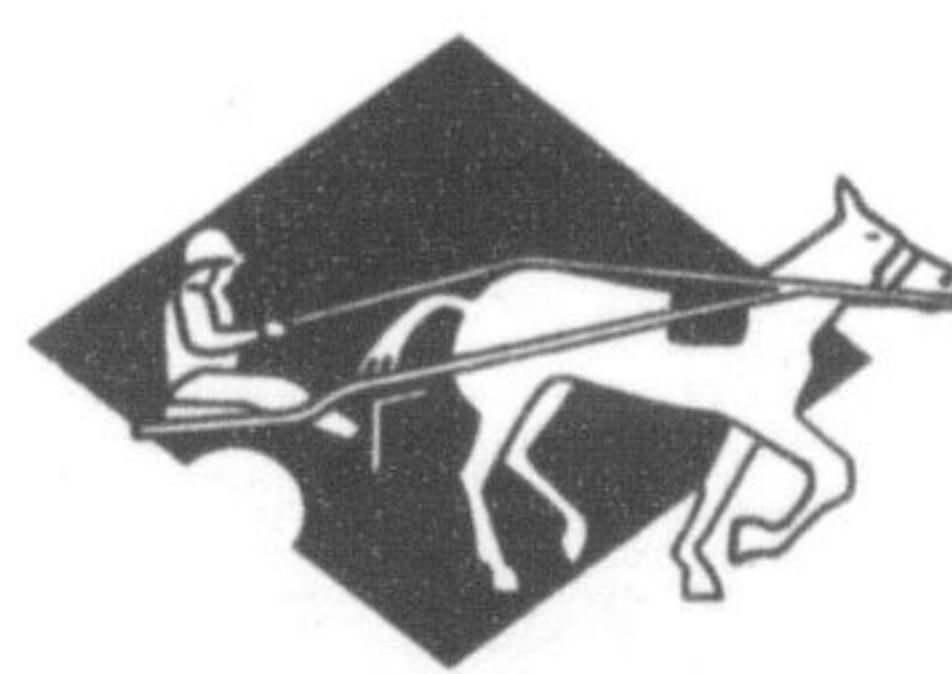
"It couldn't have been better," said Ackerman after the race. "We just kind of flattened off of the gate, and the speed was going on the front-end, so we just followed up with cover. It took us a very good way into the lane, and he just spun

us home from there."

A two-time Gold Elimination winner at two, Coventry boosted his lifetime earnings to \$151,427 for Doug and Ada Jean Ackerman of Warren, Michigan.

The second elimination saw trotting specialist Trevor Ritchie score the first of two OSS wins. The Acton native piloted Kings Ransom to an effortless three-length, 1:59.1 victory for trainer Susanne Kerwood of Campbellville and owner Ed Radin of Kitchener.

In spite of his inexperience, Kings Ransom is no stranger to the Mohawk winner's circle. The gelding captured his April 6 debut and delivered a 1:59.1 victory in a leg of the Tie Silk Series April 12 before making a break in the April 26 Final.



**Hoof  
Beat**

with **SANDRA SNYDER**

Saturday's effort saw him get the best of favoured Grand Sovereign, who recovered from an early break to earn the runner-up's share of the \$35,056 purse.

Ritchie's second win came aboard the only favourite to prevail in the three Gold Eliminations. Witness Perfection came through with a flawless performance to post an impres-

sive 1:56.4 triumph in his first start on Canadian soil.

Racing at The Meadowlands in New Jersey, the San Pellegrino son had only cracked the top three once in six starts prior to Saturday's showdown, but he appeared completely in control as he cruised to a one-and-a-half length win over Flight Dream and Trudel.

Jim Raymer trains the San Pellegrino son for owner and breeder Cedar Post Management LLC of Pemberton, New Jersey.

The top three colts from each elimination plus one of the fourth-place finishers — Wake Up And Drive, Eatonmeadow Clyde or Onondaga Kid — will return to the Campbellville oval Sunday for the first \$130,000 Gold Final on their schedule this season.