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Just a few tips to help with writing rep reports

Autumn's officially here, and that means rep hockey's back for another season.

When it comes to on-ice action of the rep variety, there are a lot of dedicated coaches, managers and parents who help make my job a little easier via team reports. Unfortunately, not every team is represented — often because sending in game write-ups seems taxing, or people simply don't know the procedure.

So in order to make the process as clear and painless as possible, here's a few quick suggestions in regard to preparing rep

reports.

- Details are important, writing style isn't. Often coaches and parents spend hours agonizing over how to craft a report when they should be focusing more attention on including all the pertinent information such as when and where the game was played and who did the scoring. Reports are almost always re-written anyway, so don't worry about style. In fact, point form hand-ins are perfectly acceptable. I can always work with something if there's enough detail, but not if there's big



In the stands

with **STEVE LeBLANC**

holes in the story.

- Please don't include every player's name in every report. This takes away

from the boys or girls who did stand out and — to be quite blunt about it — I won't include every name each week. That's not to say I won't mention every player over the course of the year, especially if some of the supporting cast members are showing signs of improvement or making contributions other than scoring. But nobody wants to read a laundry list of names — and who can blame them.

- Don't worry about including every aspect of every single game. That may be what makes this task seem daunting at times, and that shouldn't be the case. Sure, some facts like goal scorers and the final score are vital, but other than that just point out some of the highlights of each game. And try to mix-it up a little and include stuff you'd like to read about other teams.

If your team is on a lengthy winning streak or a certain player has three hat-tricks in a certain number of games, throw that in. That's the good stuff.

- If your team plays both Monday and Tuesday, please just send one report on both games rather than one Tuesday morning and one Wednesday morning. And if you haven't sent in a report for a week or two, please just write about the last two or three games and not half-a-dozen or more. Otherwise, things get too watered down and boring.

- Please include a phone number where you can be reached during the day in case there are facts that need to be clarified. Many's the time I've seen a 5-2 Milton Winterhawks victory yet only four goal scorers are listed. If there's no way to rectify this, the report simply can't be published.

- Don't bother with flowery comments like the team played well or tried their best, because nobody wants to read them. If your team made a gutsy comeback in the late stages of play or held its own against an opponent much higher in the standings, then say that. Remember, it's hockey we're talking about here — not a spelling bee.

- Reports can be dropped off at The Champion (191 Main St. E.), faxed to (905) 878-4943 or e-mailed to sleblanc@haltonsearch.com.

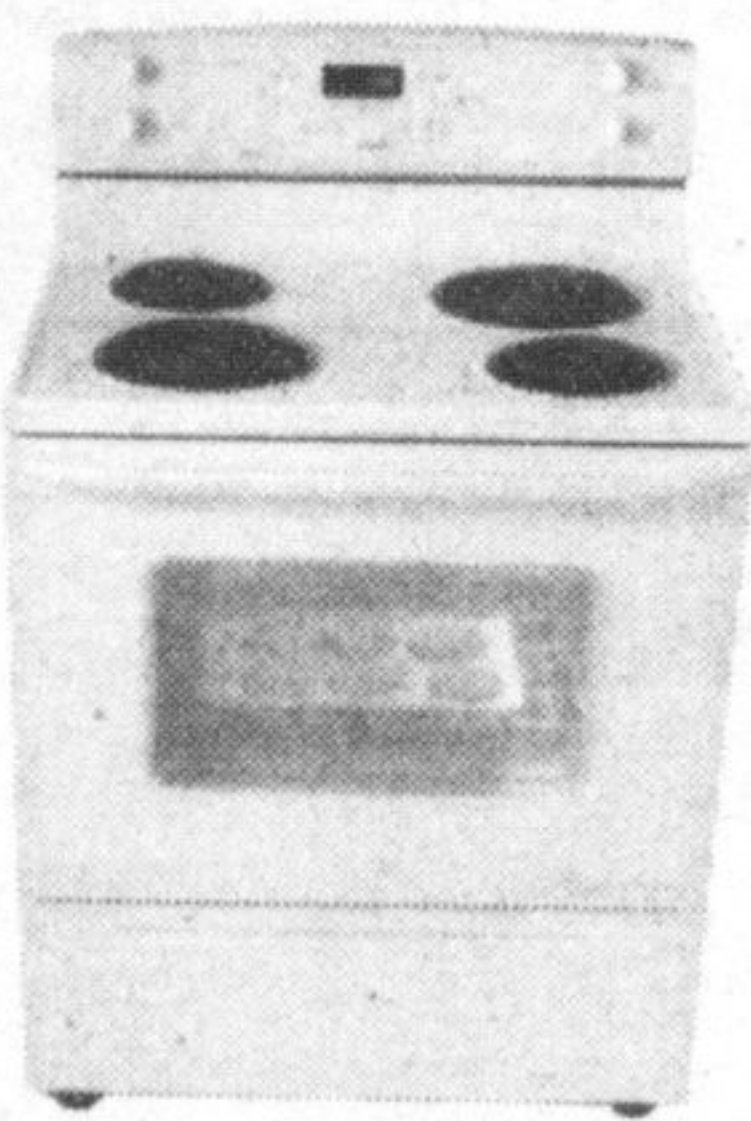
That's all for now. Thanks in advance for all of your help and those wishing further suggestions can contact me anytime at (905) 878-2341, ext. 238. See you in the stands.

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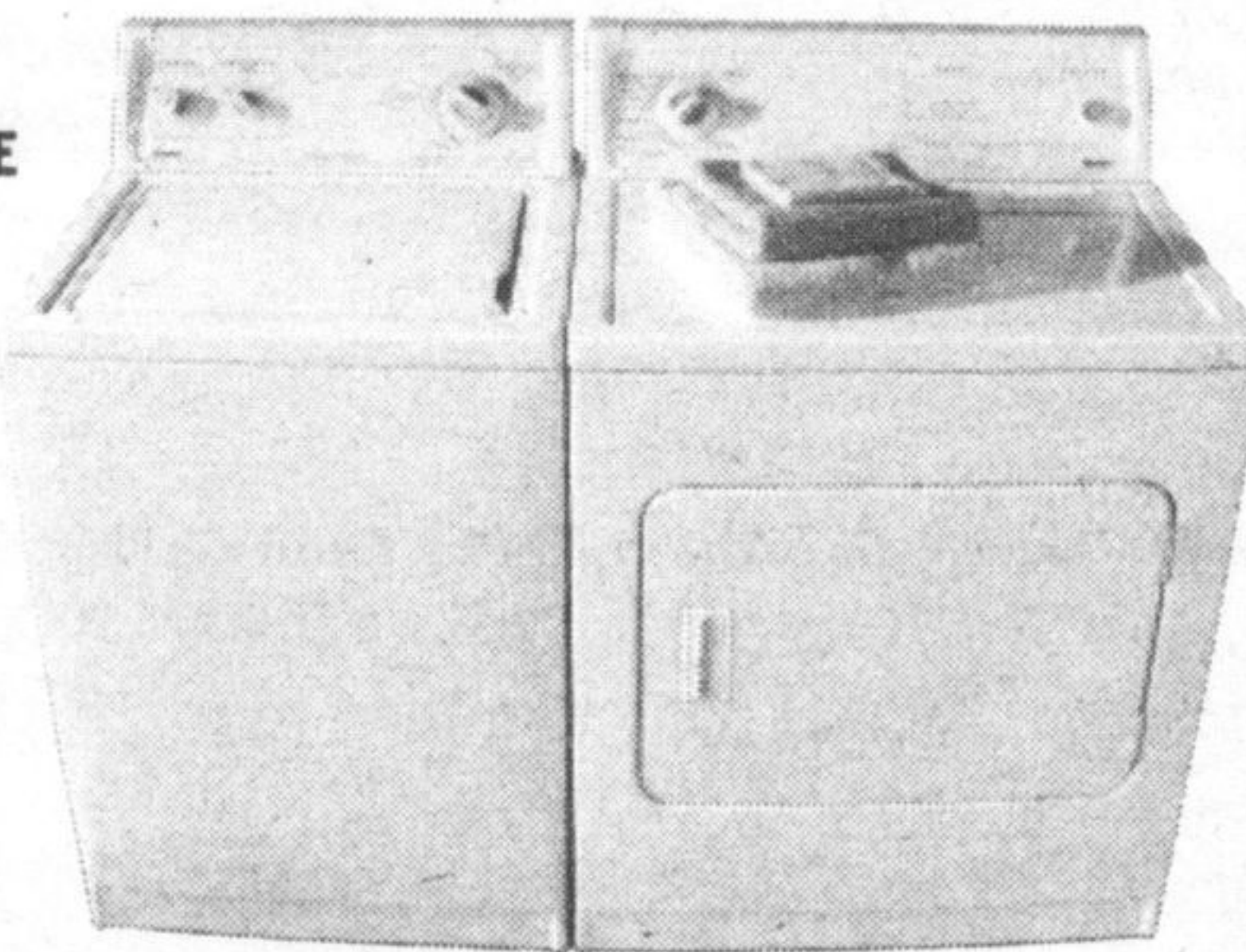
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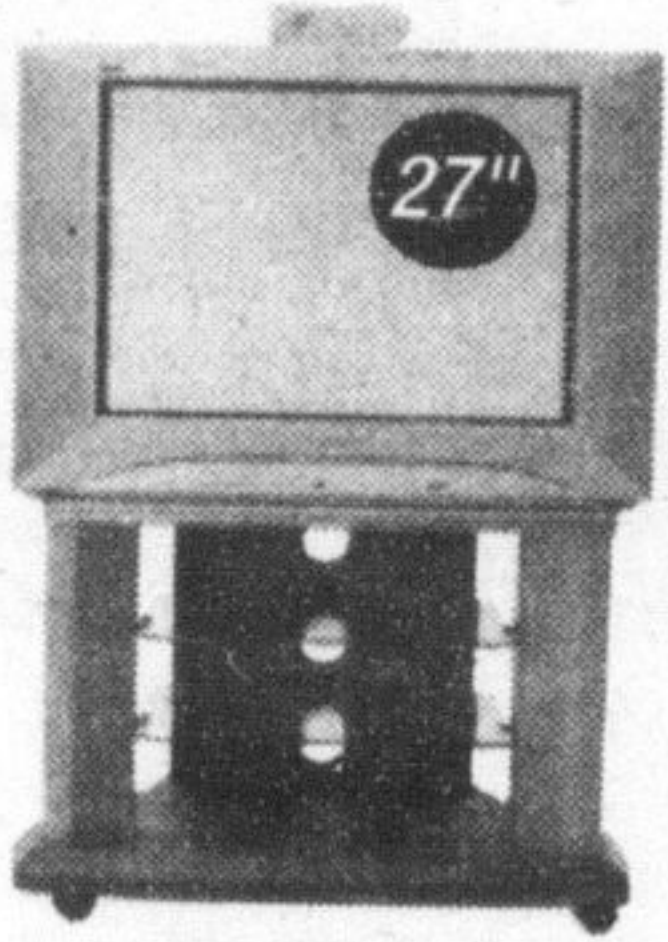
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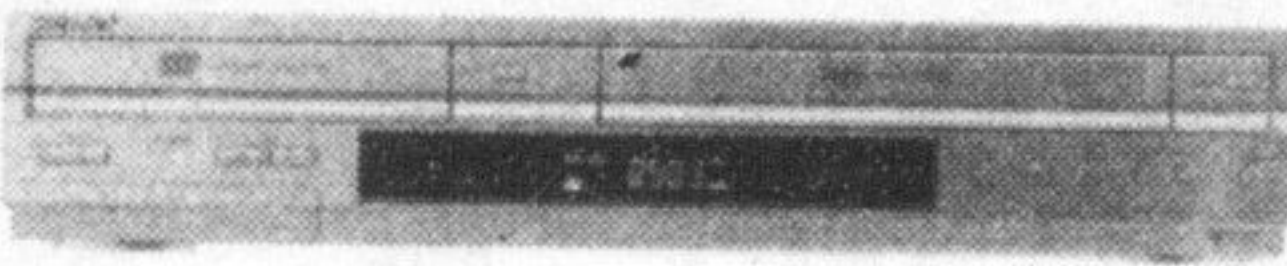
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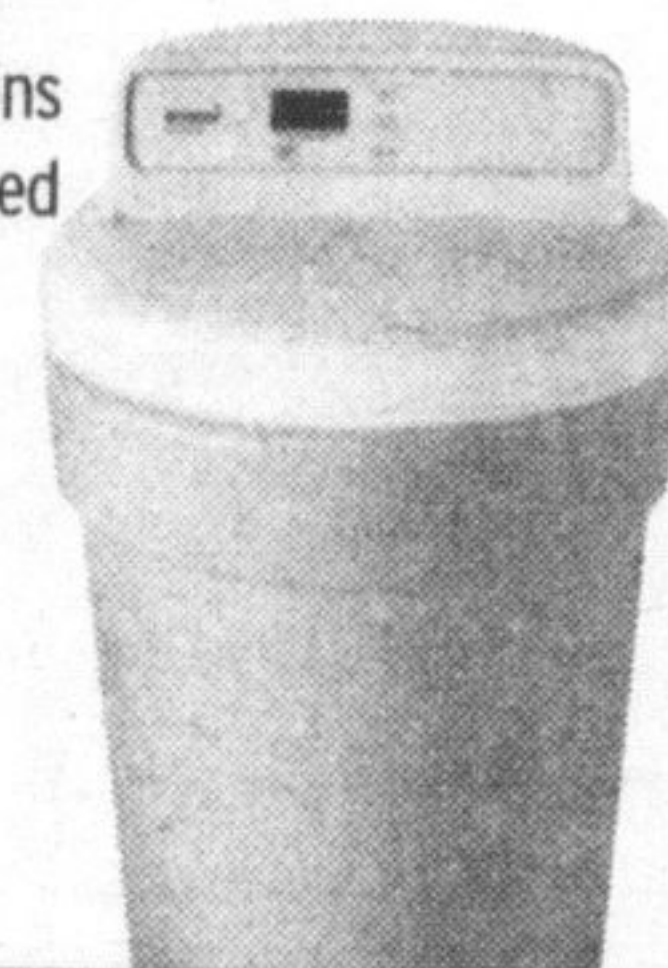
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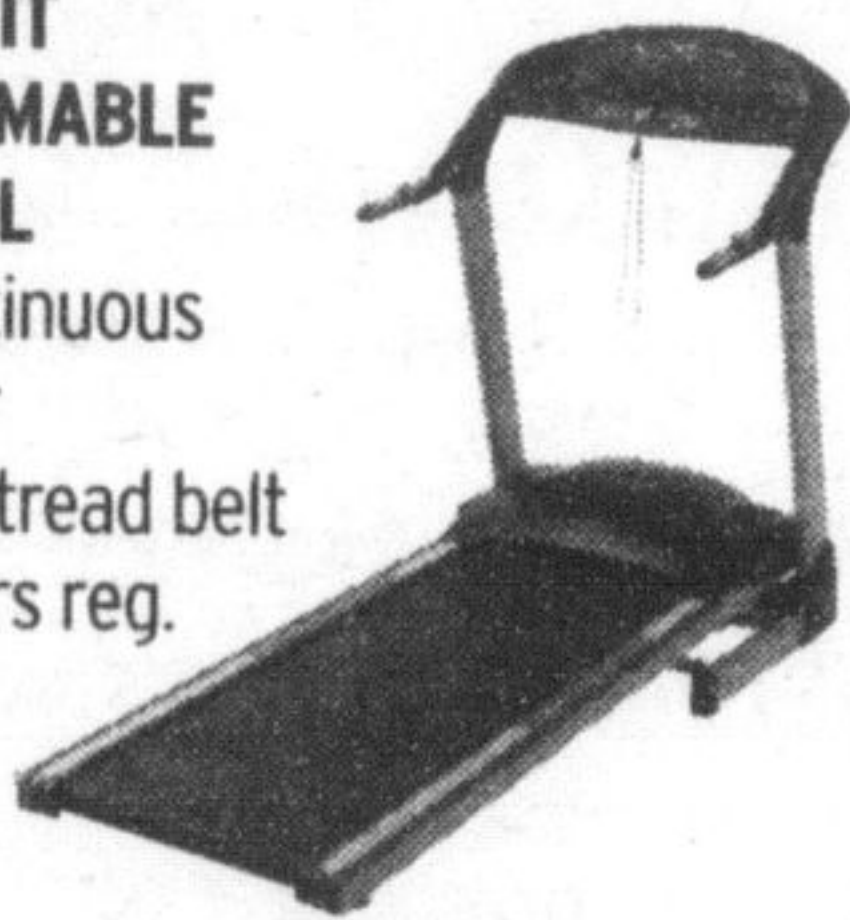
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TONIGHT'S TICKET

IceHawks (6-2) vs. Oakville Blades (5-0)

Game time: 7:30 p.m. at Memorial
Who to watch: Rookie Matt Price saw some key ice time in last week's overtime win over front-running Georgetown. Will that continue against another conference powerhouse?
The skinny: Handing Oakville its first loss will mean maintaining the strong first-period trend the IceHawks have quickly established this season, as well as finding a way to neutralize the Blades' often overly-aggressive tactics. That's usually a lot easier with home-ice advantage.
Champion's pick: Milton by 1