

# Sports

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## Spartans hold own at OFSAA

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Kevin Houldcroft called it the most memorable game he's ever coached with E.C. Drury.

But given the opportunity, he'd no doubt like to remember the final score just a little differently.

Facing a massive fan-following disadvantage against AA OFSAA host St. Theresa of Belleville Friday morning, his senior Spartans clawed their way back from a sizeable half-time deficit in round two and grabbed the narrowest of leads with under a minute remaining.

That's when fate would lower the boom on Drury's bid to reach the quarterfinals. While Katherine Greaves was steamrolled in the dying seconds of play, the hosts somehow averted the foul call — with the Spartans being called for over and back. EC would then take a foul and allow St. Theresa's Danielle Murray two free throws, which were both drained to make it 34-33. From there, the Spartans missed a wide-open pass under the basket to end an incredible but heartbreaking showdown.

"If we made that pass we win the game," said Houldcroft, following his first trip to OFSAA. "But I told the girls after this was the proudest I've ever been of them ... just the way they battled back. It was definitely the best atmosphere I've ever seen at a game. The whole school was let out of class and it was just a zoo. You couldn't hear the final buzzer it was so loud."

Laura Wellstead enjoyed a huge coming out party against St. Theresa, amassing 19 points to fuel the second-half comeback. Meanwhile, 10th graders Michelle Parcels and Brooke Harper stood out as well, filling the gap left by sick starters Sarah Fredricks and Alison Radcliffe.

Drury would go on to outdistance Fort Williams 48-44 Friday evening and then run out of gas in a 45-30 consolation semifinal loss to Grimsby's Blessed Trinity Saturday morning.

The Spartans kicked off the 16-team provincial tournament with a 56-24 rout of Ecole Secondaire Theriault of Timmins Thursday. Greaves led the opening-round blowout with two dozen points.

Making up the rest of this year's OFSAA squad were Victoria Thurston, Jenny Hsu, Brittany Richardson, Kim Robb, Sarah Broeze, Elysee Garbutt, Amanda Niedzielski, Rashni Naseer and Caitlin Pinder.



### Under fire

Winterhawks goaltender Daniel Waller keeps a close eye on the puck (at left) and faces his fair share of rubber (above and below) during AA peewee play against the Brampton Battalion Saturday afternoon at Milton Sports Centre. Milton lost 5-2.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE



## IceHawks finish out weekend with brutal road loss

The IceHawks delivered a disjointed effort against its lower-echelon opposition, and the results certainly indicated as much.

This past weekend marked the eagerly-anticipated arrival of journeyman enforcer and OHL over-ager Chris Bain, plus the long-awaited return of injured sniper Brett Robinson.

However, any momentum or spark created by these key additions quickly disappeared in Mississauga Saturday night — with Milton turning in another subpar effort and losing 4-1 to the

lowly Chargers.

A 38-19 shots on goal advantage should have been enough to cap the weekend on a winning note, although the IceHawks needed a third period powerplay marker by rookie Matt Davis just to break their hosts' shutout bid.

While Aaron Djekic was sharp in net and his Chargers have looked better since a recent roster shake-up, the upset had a lot more to do with a lack of zip and attention to detail by Milton.

The IceHawks outshot Mississauga 20-5 in the

final frame en route to losing for the third time in five games, since their 11-game unbeaten streak was snapped by Burlington November 26.

At home against Streetsville Friday, Milton enjoyed its most productive outing in recent weeks — dumping the Derbys 7-2.

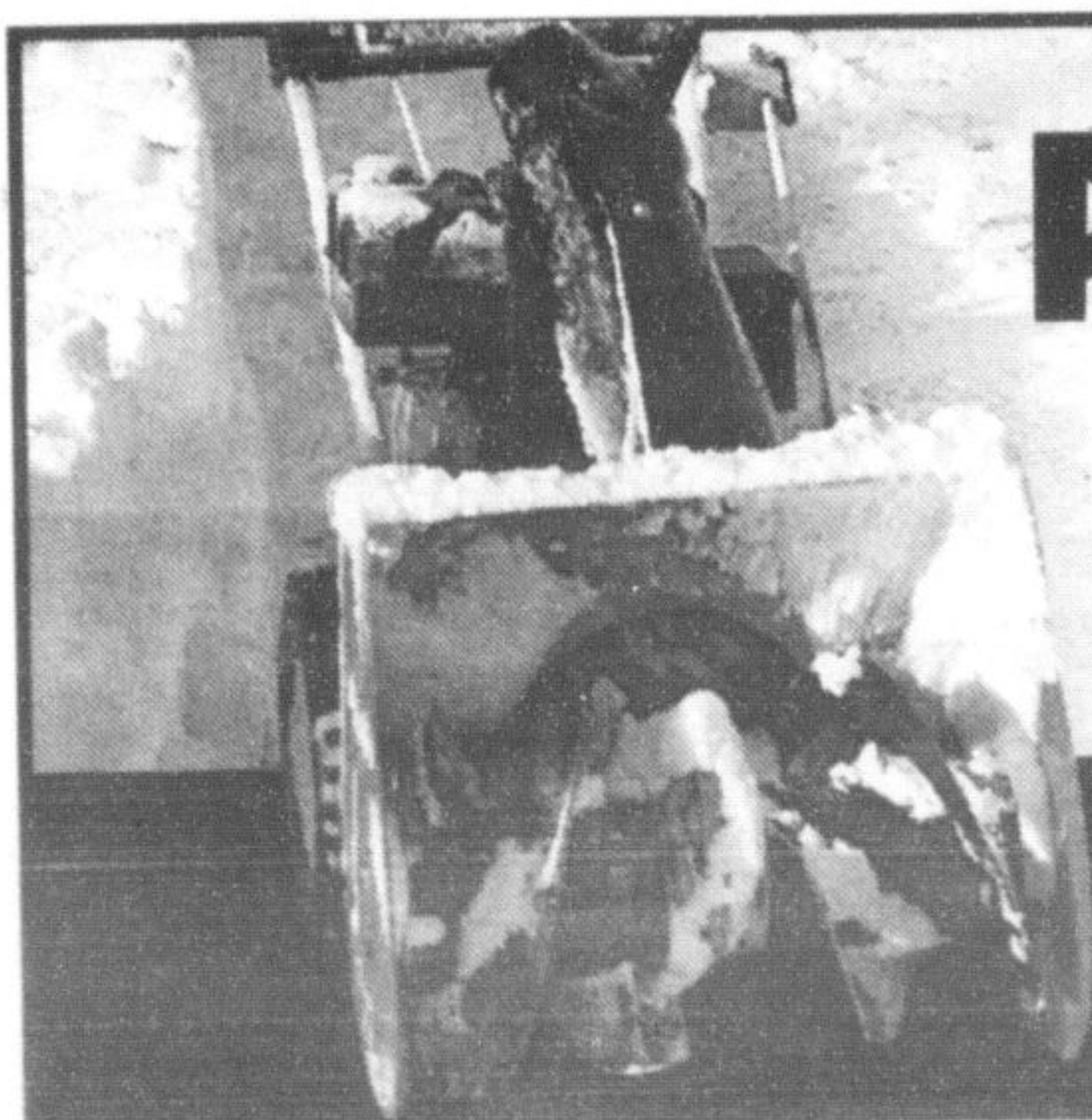
Reunited with Robinson, captain Adam Pileggi tallied twice, while Mike DeMarchi notched his 20th goal of the season and helped set up deposits by Shandor Alphonso, Ryan Bernardi and Jeff Caister.

Jason Dopaco rounded out the hit parade, while Robinson picked up two assists in a credible comeback debut.

Shots on goal favoured the IceHawks 41-17.

Giving Doug Groenestege a rest between the pipes over the weekend was recently signed 16-year-old Carson Hau, a Mississauga IceDogs draft pick who toiled with Stefan Legein with last year's Toronto Red Wing minor midgets.

Now 21-9-1-0, the IceHawks are back at home Friday at 7:30 p.m. to face Georgetown.



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