



TONIGHT'S TICKET

**IceHawks (23-15-1-1)
vs. Brampton (19-15-4-1)**

Game time: 7:30 p.m. at Memorial
Last meeting: Milton won 2-0 November 27 in Brampton.

Who to watch: Newly-acquired goalie Tom Fenton faces his first real test between the pipes. Can he right the IceHawks' ship?

The skinny: The addition of Fenton and return of offensive anchor Shandor Alphonso should be enough for the IceHawks to hold off the Capitals and start a big weekend on the right foot.

Champion's pick: Milton by four

EC wrestlers dominate

E.C. Drury's wrestling team kicked off 2005 in fine form, with medal-rich hauls at two different meets last weekend.

The Spartans began at last Friday's Thorold Tournament — with all four representatives securing a top-three finish.

Leading the way with his second gold of the year was Bryan Morgan, who went 3-0 with two come-from-behind victories to clinch top honours.

Chris Flannigan struck silver — his second for 2004/05 —

while Peter Leaman and Alan Moffat both came away with bronze, each bowing out to the eventual champions in semifinal combat.

In Hagersville Saturday, Drury amassed seven golds and 10 medals overall plus the open division team title at the Central-Western Ontario Regional Championships.

Topping their respective open division weight classes were Leaman, Moffat, Gary Ferrier and Kyle Shermet, while Kevin Iwasa-Madge, Jared Robb and Nick Ronan prevailed within the cadet ranks.

All seven earned advancement to the amateur provincials at the University of Guelph February 5 and 6.

Leaman's triumph gives him a team-leading four golds. His seven medals ties him for first among the Spartans with Carl Chan — who placed second in Hagersville and is the first Drury wrestler this season to crack the 30-win plateau.

Shermet now has half-a-dozen medals, while Robb leads the local rookie contingent with five.

Morgan and freshman Blake Elliot rounded out the medal haul with silver and bronze respectively.



Bertoli stepping it up offensively

Scott Bertoli's second-half scoring prowess continues. Since joining the ECHL's Trenton Titans five-and-a-half years ago, the 27-year-old Miltonian has had a knack for picking things up offensively through the later stages of the season — a trend which has evidently carried over into his current campaign.

The well-rounded left winger has a dozen points in his last nine games, including seven in the last four. "I don't know what it is, but I seem to have slow starts and then come on in the second half," said Bertoli Tuesday afternoon from his New Jersey-based residence. "I'm not sure just why that is."

He delivered a season-high four points in last Friday's 5-2 victory over the Johnstown Chiefs, posting his first hat-trick since the 2001/02 season in the process.

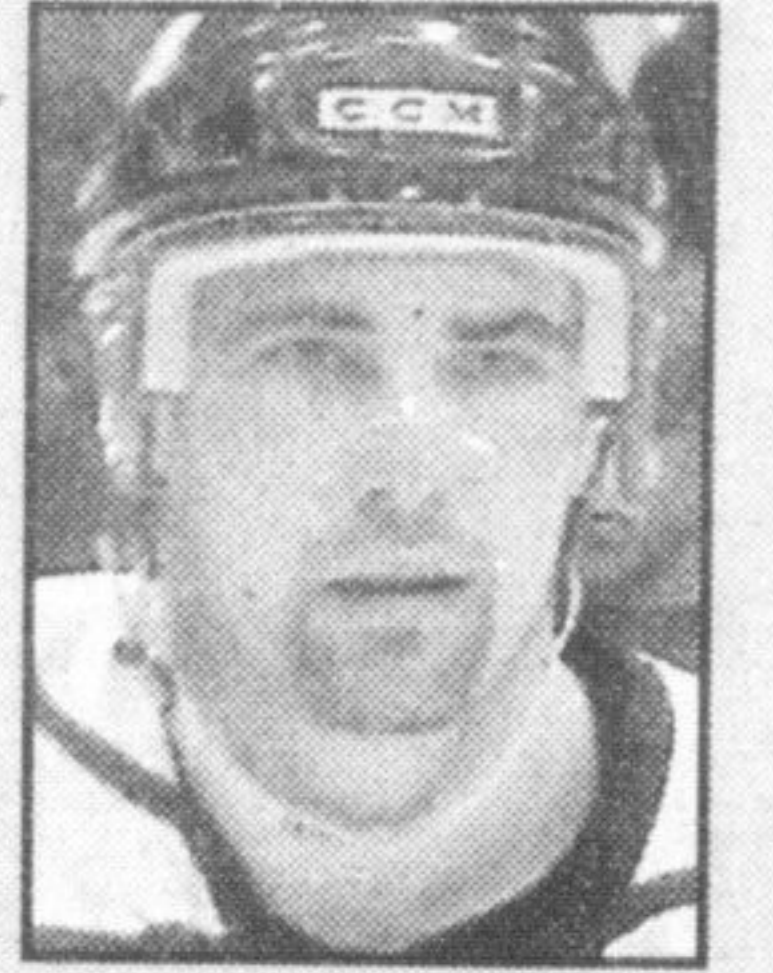
Bertoli drew an assist and powerplay marker in the opening frame and followed that up with goals on back-to-back shifts in the third period to put the game away.

He recalled, "The last two (goals) came right on top of each other — both off the draw. Bryce (Cockburn) got it back to me cleanly each time and I went five hole and top shelf."

Bertoli would be held off the scoresheet the next night in a big 2-0 win over fellow front-runner Atlantic City, but sank his 12th season deposit Sunday afternoon in a 3-1 setback to Bakersfield.

Overall, he now sits tied with Rick Kowalsky for the team scoring lead with 27 points in 29 games and has a strong chance of recording his sixth straight 50-plus point campaign. He also has a legitimate shot at breaking his single-season scoring record of 25 goals — established during 2001/02 play, in which he amassed a personal high 71 points.

Now 17-7-4, the Titans remain in excellent position to finish atop both the conference and league. They begin a five-game road trip that'll take them through the all-star break tonight in Peoria.



Scott Bertoli



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AE peewees keep things competitive

January's been a close-but-no-cigar month as far as victories go for the additional entry peewee Winterhawks.

In five games thus far, Milton has either tied its opposition or lost by the narrowest of margins.

Wednesday evening at Memorial Arena the local lads gutted out a 3-3 draw with the Ancaster Avalanche, thanks to solid cage work by Patrick Fitzpatrick and a goal and an assist each from Evan Blanchard and Brandon Haggart.

Stevie Bennett also lit the lamp, while single helpers went to Zakk Collins and Sachin Ghai.

The Winterhawks' other tie this month as came at Memorial Arena against the neighbouring Georgetown Raiders, who had destroyed them 10-1 early in the season.

Needless to say, the 1-1 stalemate on January 3 was a major accomplishment for the hosts, who were backstopped by Brandon Grant and got their lone marker from Ghai. Setting him up was Andrew Boivin.

Losses this month have come versus Flamborough (1-0), Orangeville (2-1) and Caledon (4-3).

Minor atoms slip by

Barely beating the period-ending buzzer, Taylor McVey scored on a powerplay breakaway in the second to give the AA minor atoms a 2-1 win over Caledon Wednesday evening at Milton Sports Centre.

The slim victory followed back-to-back ties and a narrow loss two nights earlier.

The CTS/DapaSoft Winterhawks' initial goal — scored on a solo effort in the first by J.R. Sanderson — also came on a breakaway. Mack Mindenhall stood tall between the pipes, but handed the reins over to J.J. Schaap after getting hurt in the final frame.

The victory put the AA minor atoms in fifth place in Tri County play and offered them a chance to finish the season at an even 13-13-2, assuming they were able to beat St. Catharines last night at Milton Sports Centre.

Rep Hockey