

Hands up!

E.C. Drury graduate Marion Jamieson — now playing for Sheridan College — goes up for a spike against Humber Lady Hawk Risha Toney in OCAA women's volleyball action last Tuesday night at Humber. Jamieson's Sheridan Bruins lost in three straight sets (25-11, 25-20, 25-12).

Photos by
GRAHAM PAINE

'Hawks can't shake second-half struggles

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

The IceHawks' playoff prognosis continues to look awfully grim.

Dropping two more games this past weekend — both by a single goal — Milton is now in genuine threat of slipping to sixth, which would mean a first-round clash with red-hot Hamilton.

Then again, no post-season match-up is too appealing these days for the IceHawks, who've lost 10 of their last 12 games and haven't beaten a top-six opponent in nearly two months.

An inability or unwillingness to get to rebounds was their biggest shortcoming in both weekend games, particularly during Sunday's 2-1 defeat against host Burlington.

In one of their few remaining opportunities to gain ground on the fourth-place Cougars, Milton surrendered an early lead — established with an upstairs wrist by Adam Pileggi — and were muscled off the puck for much of the last two periods.

Burlington would even things up with just two seconds left in the first and then go ahead at 16:22 of the second. Both goals against Tom Fenton came on huge rebounds.

Cougars cager Chris Rowan held off a

late storm and turned back 28 shots overall to give his teammates a psychological edge over their likely opening-round rival.

At Memorial Arena Friday night, the IceHawks dropped their third game this month to a team below them in the standings — this time to the harder working Brampton Capitals.



Neutralized in high-traffic areas and almost completely devoid of creativity, Milton made things quite easy for opposing netminder Dave Wilson — despite firing four dozen shots his way. Most of those, however, were straight at him.

The IceHawks didn't get on the board until the closing moments of the second period, when some nifty work behind the net by Pileggi set up the first of two markers by Shandor Alphonso.

Jason Dopaco would finish out the scoring with 1:02 remaining, depositing a cross-ice pass on the powerplay and with Fenton pulled.

Former IceHawk Julian Sarraino did most of the damage for Brampton, netting the first two goals and assisting on Dan Lekavich's lengthy slapshot just eight seconds left in the middle stanza.

Now only six games above .500 with seven games left in the regular season, Milton is in Streetsville tonight.

Price commits to Boston College for '06/07 play

Matt Price is Beantown bound.

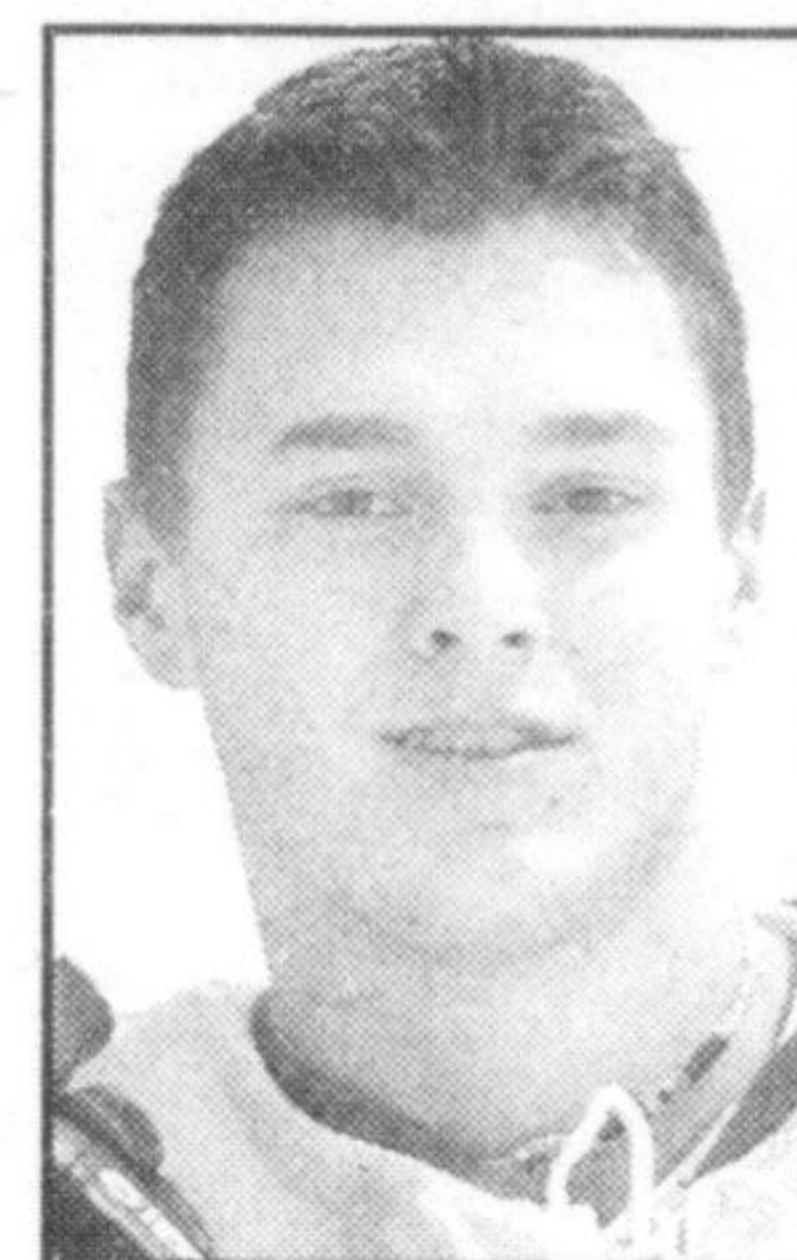
Actually the IceHawks' rookie winger isn't going anywhere anytime soon, but has committed to perennial powerhouse Boston College of the NCAA's Hockey East ranks for the 2006/07 school year.

The 16-year-old Miltonian made his choice last Tuesday and said it's great to have the decision behind him.

"It's a pretty big weight off my shoulders," he said Wednesday.

Price was also seriously considering both the University of Michigan and New Hampshire University, but felt "in his gut" that Boston College was where he'd end up ever since visiting the campus in late October. "Just everything about the program and school made me feel comfortable and think this was the right place for me," remarked the 11th grader, who's tentatively eyeing business studies.

Currently ranked second nationally after reaching the Frozen Four semifinals last spring, Boston College was no doubt won over by Price's speed and playmaking prowess — which has him on a near point-a-game pace this season with 10 goals and



Matt Price

19 assists in 34 contests.

"They (Boston College) were looking for a highly-skilled up-tempo player, and that's definitely what Matt is," said Price's rep advisor Murray Kuntz of Mississauga's Octogon Hockey. "I

think they see him being a top-six forward two years down the road."

A number of other IceHawks are currently being scouted by NCAA schools, including star-in-the-making call-ups John Tavares and Sam Gagner.

Milton IceHawks

(2004/05 statistics)

Player	GP	G	A	PT
S. Alphonso	35	21	23	44
M. DeMarchi	39	23	19	42
J. Dopaco	38	16	24	40
J. Caister	42	9	31	40
•K. Morrison	40	18	20	38
A. Pileggi	38	14	20	34
•M. Price	36	10	20	30
A. Dias	28	8	16	24
•J. Tavares	16	11	12	23
J. Fortino	40	3	20	23
B. Robinson	23	11	11	22
R. Bernardi	39	6	16	22
•M. Davis	39	7	9	16
•S. Gagner	13	5	10	15
J. Jenish	20	3	11	14
J. Jenish	30	6	8	14
C. Gilholm	36	2	7	9
P. Clark	18	2	5	7
T.J. Moore	4	0	2	2
C. Bain	4	0	1	1

• indicates rookie

Juveniles tops in Niagara District — again

Milton's AA juveniles clinched their third straight Niagara District regular season title this past weekend, doing so with a 3-0 whitewash of host Fort Erie Friday night.

Wes McDougall broke an evening-long shutout stalemate with 10-and-a-half minutes remaining — on a somewhat fluky close-range scramble — while Kyle Burrell and Chris Whiting notched unassisted insurance markers down the stretch.

Steady but not heavily tested

between the pipes was Jason Strong. Setting up McDougall's tally was Kyle Strong.

Scheduled games in Wainfleet Thursday and at Memorial Arena versus Hagersville were both forfeited.

Losing just twice this season — with back-to-back defeats to Thorold — the Winterhawks appear to be in strong shape for the upcoming playdowns,

especially with Burrell back from playing Jr. B hockey out west and guys like Derek Blanchard and Harley Mouscos showing a higher level of discipline these days.

That could well be the deciding factor heading into first-round play against St. Catharines later this month and then a likely OMHA rematch with the AAA Windsor Spitfires, who knocked off

Milton the past two years.

The recent return of dependable sniper Burrell and some consistent defense over the past month — as well as home-ice advantage throughout the playoffs — are among the Winterhawks' other key assets.

"We'd like nothing more than to give them (Windsor) some pay-back, and if we come to play and stay away from the rough stuff I think we can," remarked assistant coach Dave Burrell.

