

# 'AA' minor peewees end playoff woes with sweep

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

There'd be no denying them this time around. Having failed to win an OMHA playoff series the previous two years, Milton's AA minor peewees were more than a little anxious to end that drought heading into first-round play against Ancaster.

And while a meager three-win regular season suggested hopes for advancement were 'iffy' at best, the Dunsford Landscaping Winterhawks simply refused to buy into that theory — disposing of the Avalanche in three straight games.

Erasing an early deficit, the local lads notched three unanswered goals and later buried an empty netter to eliminate Ancaster 4-2 Friday evening on the road.

"This feels great, it definitely takes the sting out of our regular season," said head coach Dale Waller of the first-round sweep. "We'd been showing improvement over the past few weeks and this was just the pay-off."

Suffocating defence by Bryden Curran and Luke Kimmerer plus fierce forechecking by Marcus Dunsford — who scored the game winner — was just



too much for the Avalanche in the series clincher.

Tyler Jordan was rock-solid between the pipes, while Brandon Nicols, Colin McNabb and Kevin Thomson led offensively with a goal and an assist each. While denied on a penalty shot, Sean McGovern helped set up the winner.

McNabb iced the game with the empty netter, after taking a picture-perfect feed from James Hart.

Derek Dercatch and Mark Nordstrom also drew assists Friday.

A two-goal, two-assist performance by McGovern fueled Milton's 6-1 series-opening triumph January 16 in Ancaster, while last Tuesday's 4-1 win at Milton Sports Centre put the Avalanche on the proverbial chopping block.

Thomson came out of the penalty box to score and break a scoreless stalemate midway through game two, while from there Hart and McNabb widened the gap and Nicols potted the first of two empty netters in the series.

Jordan backstopped the Winterhawks to all three wins, and will hope to keep that streak going once second-round play begins against either Guelph or St. Catharines.

## Fillies heat up a chilly night

Amid bone-chilling conditions at Woodbine Thursday evening, both My Fine Lady and Serenity Seelster delivered red-hot performances to win their respective \$17,000 second leg dashes of the Miss Vera Bars Pacing Series for three-year-old fillies.

The second leg had been originally slated for January 13, but was pushed back due to an extremely sloppy track that night. The \$43,800 final is now set for Thursday — once again at the Toronto strip.

Sitting third throughout the course of the mile, My Fine Lady and driver Paul MacDonell came on late to take the opening division in 1:59.2.

Ambro Clarica cut the fractions, which were reached in :28, :58.4 and 1:29.4. Pulling the pocket, Selma Hall made a bid in the late stretch, but MacDonell had My



**Hoof Beat**

with **JEFF RENTON**

Fine Lady out in the three-wide path and prevailed by a nose in a photo finish.

The opening division turned out to be just a five-horse race when 8-5 morning line favourite Lil Miss Hanover was deemed ineligible by the judges. Selma Hall bottomed out the \$61.70 exactor, while Ambro Clarica hung on for third.

Conditioned by Matt Dupuis for Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia's Dr. James Shrive, My Fine Lady lowered her personal best mark with the victory and recorded her first win of the season in her only start thus far. She posted a 5-1-0 record

and collected \$11,608 in earnings last year as a two-year-old.

After grabbing the lead just past the opening quarter, Serenity Seelster and driver Tony Kerwood led the rest of the way and stopped the clock in 1:57.4 in the second division.

Conditioned by John MacMillan for his partners Glenn and Garth Bechtel, Serenity Seelster cut fractions of :59 and 1:28.1 en route to victory.

In rein to Milton's Mike Saftic, Lady DM finished a length back in second and rounded out the \$36.90 exactor. A \$97.70 tractor was botomed out by Phil Hudon and Hestia, who were five lengths in arrears.

Serenity Seelster delivered a personal-best 1:54.4 finish last year at two — a season in which the bay filly raced to a 3-0-1 record in 10 starts and banked \$33,211.

## Minor atoms square series

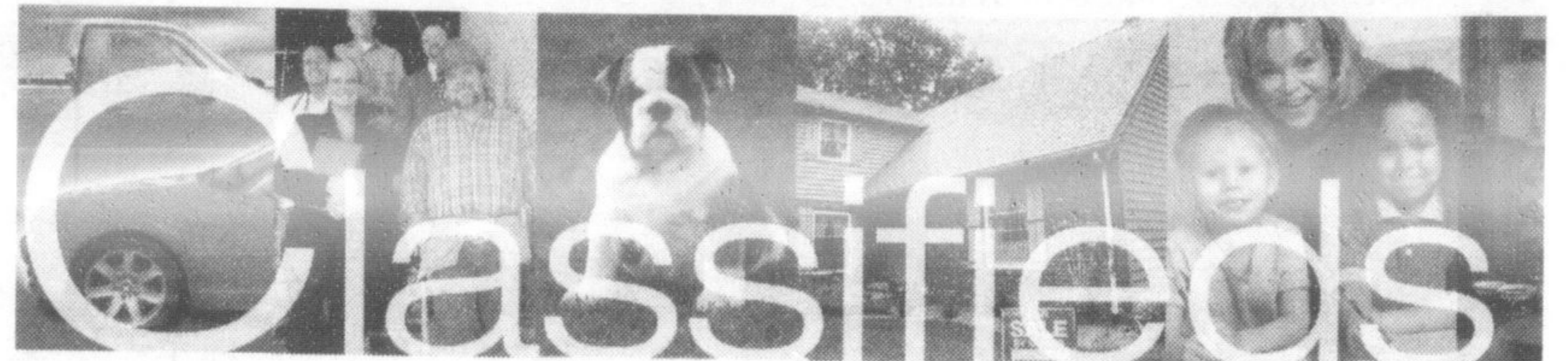
Two quick goals and some stellar penalty killing.

Milton's AA minor atoms used that combination to eclipse host Caledon 2-1 and draw even in their first-round OMHA series Saturday afternoon.

The Winterhawks killed off six of seven penalties in game two, with Caledon finally striking with the man-advantage in the dying seconds of play to spoil Mack Mindenhall's shutout bid.

Colin Maltby and Corey MacDonald scored just over a minute apart before the game was three minutes old. Zach Collier set up the initial tally, while strong backchecking from forwards Gareth Browne and Drew McMillen and gritty overall play by Jack Goncz factored heavily into the win as well.

Milton and Caledon hooked up again last night, with the winner having a chance to clinch the best-of-five series in Caledon Thursday evening.



### ENGAGEMENT

**Anna & Frank Coletta of Milton are proud to announce the engagement of their daughter Stephanie to Andrew son of Shauna & Gordon Orr of Sault Ste. Marie Wedding to take place in Huntsville, September 2005**

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## Field hockey clinic at E.C. Drury Friday

Want to learn to play field hockey?

If so, swing by E.C. Drury High School Friday evening for a drop-in introduction to the sport.

Held between 6:30 and 8:15 p.m., the field hockey session is open to both boys and girls between the ages of seven and 13. A \$10 donation will go toward the E.C. Drury field hockey team's 2006 trip to Australia. Participants should also bring athletic wear and indoor active shoes. Sticks will be provided, as well as pizza and drinks afterwards.

Among the instructors will be members of the national men's field hockey team, executive director of Field Hockey Ontario Jesse Kular, York University women's field hockey coach Deb Fullerton and two former national team goalies — including Milton's own Sarah Forbes.

A training demonstration will follow.

The evening is being held in conjunction with the school's annual 15-hour indoor field hockey-a-thon fundraiser the Spartans will take part in between 5 p.m. Friday and 8 a.m. the following morning. For more information, call Geoff Sheppard at E.C. Drury's athletic department at (905) 878-0575.