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The Canadian  
**Champion**



# IceHawks, Cougars set to clash

*Milton hoping home-ice advantage and edge in momentum proves too much for Burlington*

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

*The Champion*

Home-ice advantage won't be the IceHawks' only edge heading into tonight's series opener with Burlington.

Momentum definitely swings in Milton's favour as well, with seven straight wins — highlighted by last Friday's 7-4 decision over regular-season

champion

Georgetown —

punctuating an

adversity-rich year.

By contrast, the

Cougars did take

three of four points in a

home-and-home series

with Georgetown late last

month, but since then are winless

in five games.

And if recent numbers are any indication,

the IceHawks look to have more

offensive depth than their first-round

rivals.

"We've been scoring more since our

Christmas slump, and hopefully that carries

on into the playoffs," said assistant

general manager Kevin Lachance. "I'm

very confident we'll beat Burlington. We

match up well against them. We've just got

to brave those high traffic areas and score

from in front."

That'll be easier said than done, given

Burlington's size and strength on the blue-

line.

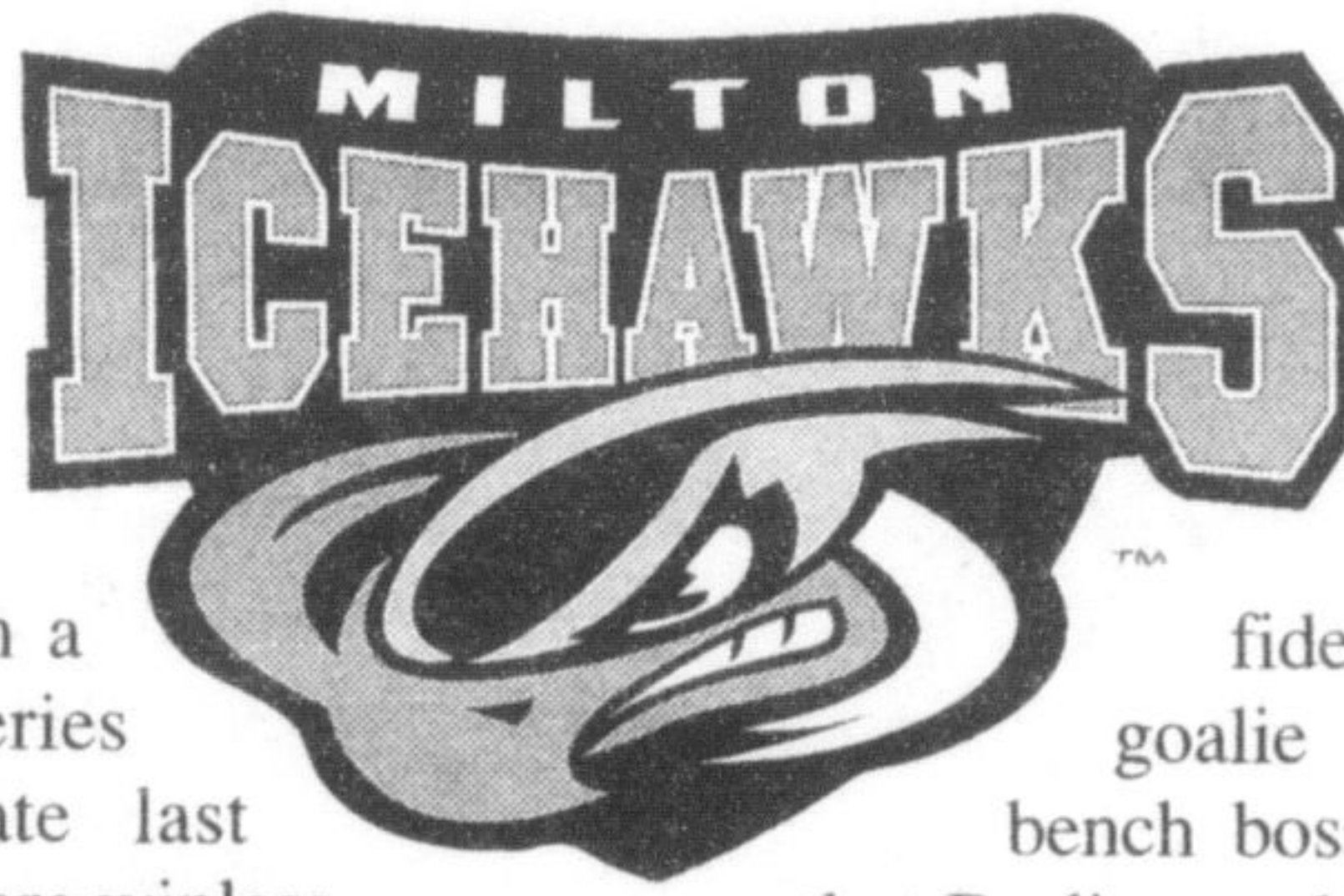
However, Milton has come through in

physically-demanding tests against

Hamilton and Georgetown leading up to

the playoffs. A number of players have rediscovered their scoring touch, particularly Brett Robinson, who has 14 goals in his last seven games.

Remarketed veteran defenceman Jason Fortino, "We'll beat them in five or six (games). We're a better team than Burlington. We've just got to play like we can."



For head coach George Dupont, that means leaving no room for Cougar comebacks.

While no doubt confident in recently-acquired

goalie Tom Fenton, Milton's

bench boss knows only too well

that Burlington has a knack for winning

low scoring games — including a 2-1 decision

over the IceHawks at Central Arena

January 16

"A 1-0 game plays right into their

hands," he stressed. "Offensively, I don't

think they're as good as us, so we've got to

find a way to get up on them by more than

a goal."

The IceHawks won their season series

with Burlington three games to two,

including back-to-back overtime triumphs

early in the year.

Injuries shouldn't be much of a factor in

first-round play, as the Cougars appear to

be quite healthy and Milton — hit hard by

the injury bug all year — is now at near full

strength, with just veteran Adam Pileggi

and rookie Matt Davis nursing minor ailments.

## Milton IceHawks vs. Burlington Cougars

(best of seven opening round)

Game 1	Friday	at Memorial (7:30 pm)
Game 2	Sunday	at Memorial (3:00 pm)
Game 3	Tuesday	at Burlington (7:30 pm)
Game 4	Feb. 18	at Burlington (7:30 pm)
•Game 5	Feb. 20	at Memorial (3:00 pm)
•Game 6	Feb. 21	at Burlington (7:30 pm)
•Game 7	Feb. 22	at Memorial (7:30 pm)

• if necessary

## Milton IceHawks

(Final 2004/05 statistics)

Player	GP	G	A	PT
S. Alphonso	42	22	35	57
M. DeMarchi	46	27	30	57
J. Dopaco	45	23	22	55
J. Caister	49	11	39	50
•K. Morrison	47	22	24	46
B. Robinson	30	26	17	43
A. Pileggi	44	18	23	41
•M. Price	39	11	21	32
R. Bernardi	48	7	22	29
J. Fortino	48	3	21	24
•J. Tavares	16	11	12	23
•M. Davis	44	7	14	21
L. D'Avino	36	8	9	17
•S. Gagner	13	5	10	15
J. Jenish	23	3	12	15
C. Gilholm	42	4	10	14
C. Bain	11	4	9	13
P. Clark	25	2	7	9
T.J. Moore	11	2	6	8

Goalie	Record	GAA	SAVE%
T. Fenton	8-2	2.20	90.5
•C. Hau	2-4	3.43	84.1

• indicates rookie

## 2005 LACROSSE REGISTRATION

\*A copy of a birth certificate is required for all new registrants.

**LACROSSE**  
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**Friday, Feb 11th**  
6:00pm-9:00pm @ the Milton Mall  
**Saturday, Feb 12th**  
9:00am-4:00pm @ the Milton Mall

TIMES FOR PLAYER DEVELOPMENT			
DIVISION	DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Softie/Peanut	2/25/05	6:00-7:30pm	WI Dick
Novice	2/14/05	6:00-7:00pm	WI Dick
	2/21/05	6:00-7:00pm	WI Dick
Peewee	2/18/05	7:00-8:00pm	MDHS
	2/25/05	7:30-9:00pm	MDHS
Bantam	2/18/05	7:00-8:00pm	MDHS
	2/23/05	6:00-7:00pm	Chris Hadfield
Midget	2/18/05	8:00-9:00pm	MDHS
	2/23/05	7:00-8:00pm	Chris Hadfield
Coaches Development	2/16/05	6:00-8:00pm	Chris Hadfield

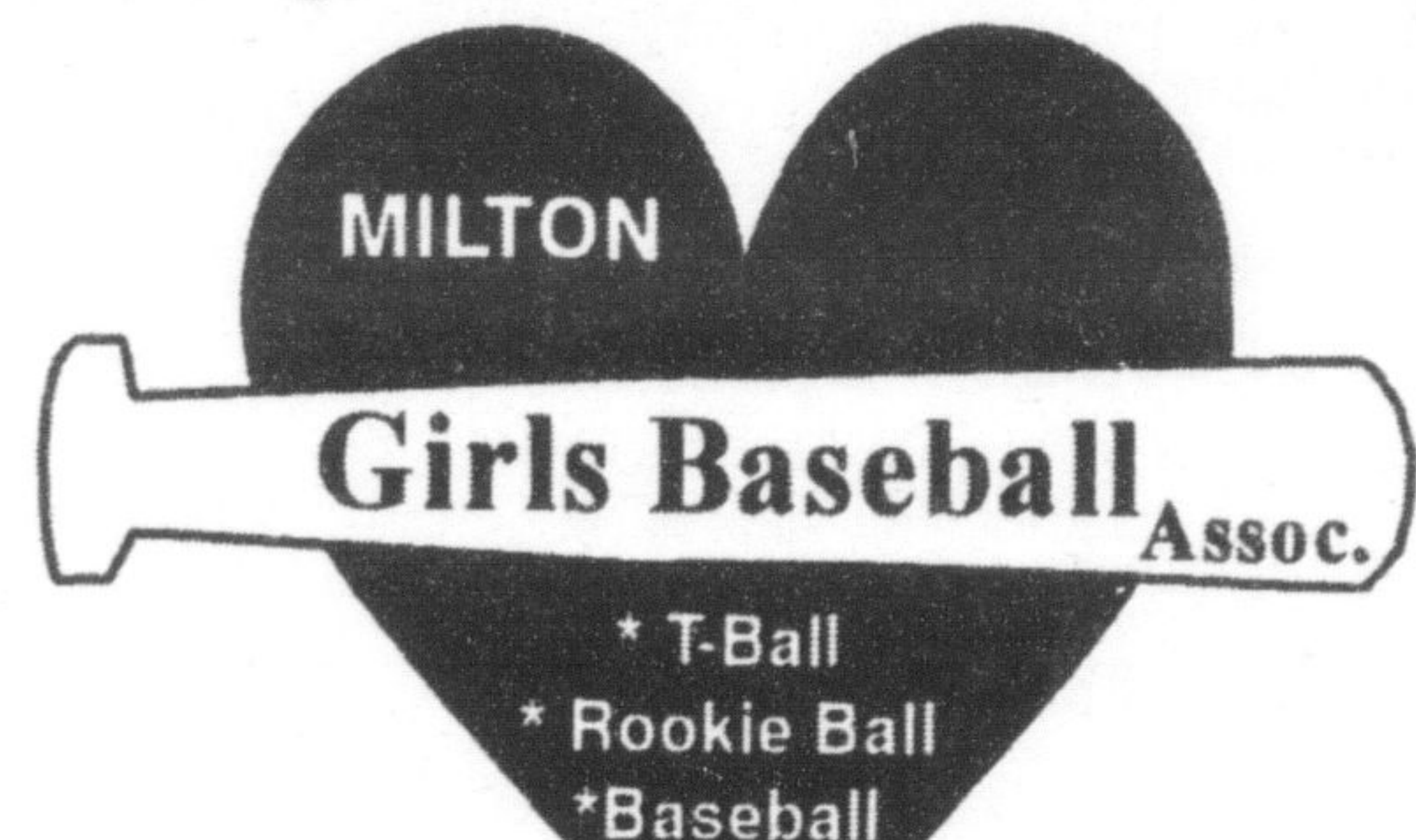
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Volunteers Needed!

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Jr. "T" Ball	1999 - 2000
*POP* Ball	1997 - 1998
Rookie Ball	1995 - 1996
PeeWee Baseball	1992 - 1994
Bantam Rep Baseball	1989 - 1991

\*All Division use regulation size Baseball Jr. "T" uses a softer baseball

**Register at the Milton Mall**

Feb 11, 4pm - 9pm or Feb 12, 9:30am - 4:00pm