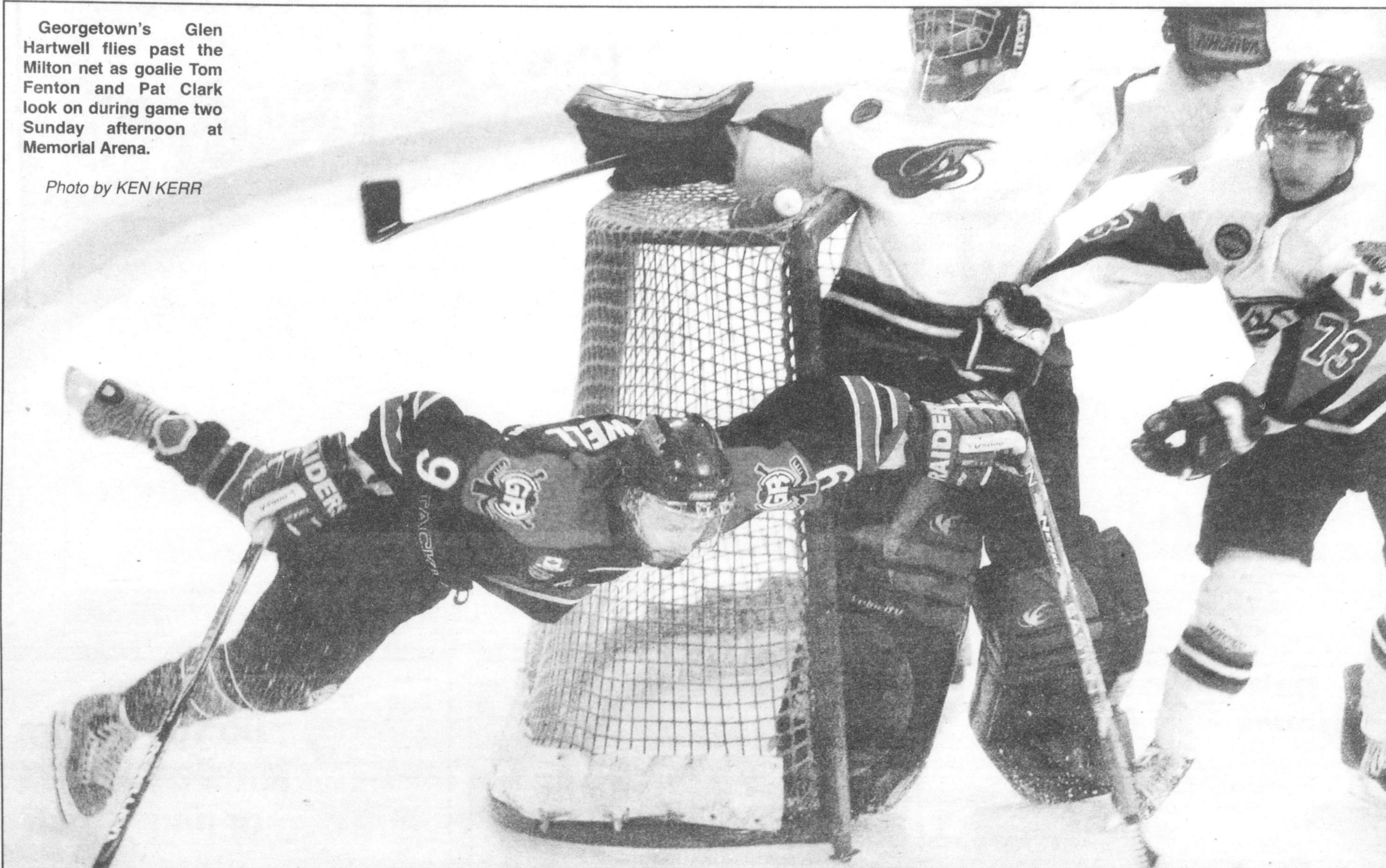


# Sports

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Georgetown's Glen Hartwell flies past the Milton net as goalie Tom Fenton and Pat Clark look on during game two Sunday afternoon at Memorial Arena.

Photo by KEN KERR



## IceHawks even up conference semifinal series

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

**T**he IceHawks were no doubt upbeat upon ending weekend play at Memorial Arena Sunday afternoon.

However, their optimism appeared to extend beyond the fact that they'd just knocked off Georgetown 4-2 to even up their Western Conference semifinal series at one game apiece.

Just the night before at Alcott Arena, Milton had come within two-and-a-half minutes of winning the series opener — giving up a couple of goals during that narrow window and getting trimmed 5-4. While the IceHawks obviously met the close-but-no-cigar defeat with disappointment, they now see it as a sign that they're capa-

ble of stealing one in the Raiders' hostile barn. "Yeah, we can take them there," said forward Jason Dopaco, who tallied twice in game one and added another in the series-knotting victory Sunday. "We really didn't deserve to lose game one. We worked our butts off."

Echoing those sentiments was goalie Tom Fenton.

"Coming so close Saturday, we're pretty confident we can steal one in their barn."

The IceHawks nearly did just that despite being outshot 47-19 Saturday.

Wiping out a 3-0 deficit with four straight goals — with singles by captain Shandor Alphonso and T.J. Moore complementing Dopaco's pair — Milton looked poised to return home with the series lead.

But those plans were eventually spoiled, as

Raider Jay Sprague tied things up on a doorstep jam with 2:15 remaining and teammate Tyler Leggo sank an innocent-looking shot from along the boards 63 seconds later.

Both the equalizer and game winning deposits were unassisted, while Chris Bain and Marlie call-up John Tavares had two helpers apiece for Milton.

Quickly regrouping after the heartbreaking finish, Fenton turned aside 46 of 48 shots — including 23 of 24 in the second period alone — to outduel counterpart Aaron Barton and the Raiders Sunday.

"You've just got to get yourself refocused," said Milton's netminder, who's been faring well in high-traffic situations and displayed quite a bit of impressive glove work so far in the playoffs. "We really didn't want to lose here (Memorial)."

Scoring the first of three second-period goals Sunday, Dopaco said the key was simply putting game one out of their minds.

"We were all ready to play today," he stressed.

An overall standout thus far against Georgetown, Alphonso provided a much-needed insurance tally with a breakaway snapshot midway through the final frame — bursting in on Barton after a huge defensive-zone block by Kevin Morrison.

Tavares scored the game winner at 13:09 of the second — taking a nifty drop pass from Matt Price and wiring one in low — while Dopaco and utility man Pat Clark struck earlier on with near-identical point shots just 10 seconds apart.

Brett Robinson set up goals two and four. Game three is set for tomorrow night at Alcott, starting at 8 p.m.

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