

Sports

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Gleed wins ECAC crown with Cornell

Big Red advance to NCAA tourney

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**
Special to *The Champion*

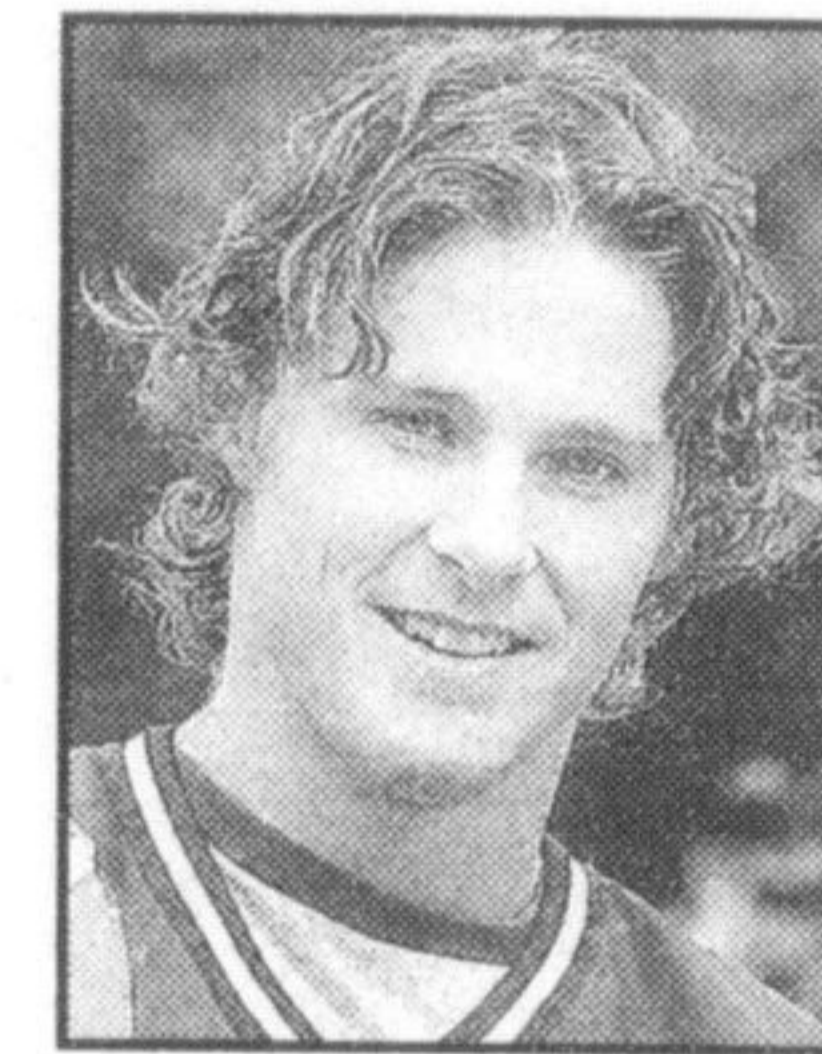
Milton's Jon Gleed is going back to the dance — the ice dance that is.

His Cornell University hockey team will compete at the NCAA tournament for the second time in three years after topping its ECAC opposition last weekend.

The Big Red clinched the conference title with a 3-1 decision over Harvard Saturday night — extending its unbeaten streak to 18 games — to follow up on last Friday's 3-0 semifinal whitewash of Vermont and a best-of-three (5-0, 3-2OT) quarterfinal series sweep against Clarkson.

Allowing just three goals over these last four games is a testament to the Big Red's goalie — Hobey Baker finalist David McKee — although Gleed has to take at least a little of the credit himself.

"Everybody is committed to strong defence," said the junior defenceman, who helped limit Harvard to a mere 18 shots in the ECAC title game in Albany, New York.



Jon Gleed

"Our goal was to be the best defensive team in the nation and so far we've accomplished that."

Gleed isn't anxious to pigeonhole himself as a defensive defenceman, but added that he's certainly comfortable with life inside his own blueline.

"I strive to take care of my own end first, and jump into the play after that. I guess I fit in well to what our coach is looking for."

While his last trip to the NCAA tournament was marked with advancement to the Frozen Four, Gleed indicates that he's much more excited about his return appearance at the national showcase — at least from a personal standpoint.

"I didn't have an opportunity to play in the Frozen Four that year. I was the only freshman defenceman on the team, and it was tough to crack that lineup," he said. "This year I've been able to contribute a lot more to the success of the team."

A seventh-round draft pick of the Montreal Canadiens last summer, Gleed is no stranger to high-stakes competition. Before joining Cornell he aided the nearby Brampton Capitals in their 2001/02 Provincial Jr. A League championship run.

Expectations are quite high for the Big Red this time around, and Gleed believes they have a legitimate shot at the national championship. They've won two of them before, one in 1967 and one in 1970 — with legend-in-the-making Ken Dryden backstopping both of those teams.

The Big Red are ranked fifth for the 16-team NCAA tournament and have been moved west to Minneapolis, where they'll face off against 27-10-4 Ohio State tomorrow afternoon. The winner advances to battle either Maine or Minnesota.

The winners of each of the four brackets make up the Frozen Four in Columbus, Ohio April 7 and 9.

Territorial dispute

Haltont Hurricanes forward Jake Davis (right) battles an Oakville opponent during Sunday's 2-1 win for the OMHA bronze medal. For full results, see page 24.

Photo by HERB GARBUTT

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We are also looking for individuals that are interested in **umpiring** games, and have opportunities for individuals that are interested in **coaching**. This is good for community service hours.

