

Sports

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IceHawks goalie frustrating opposition

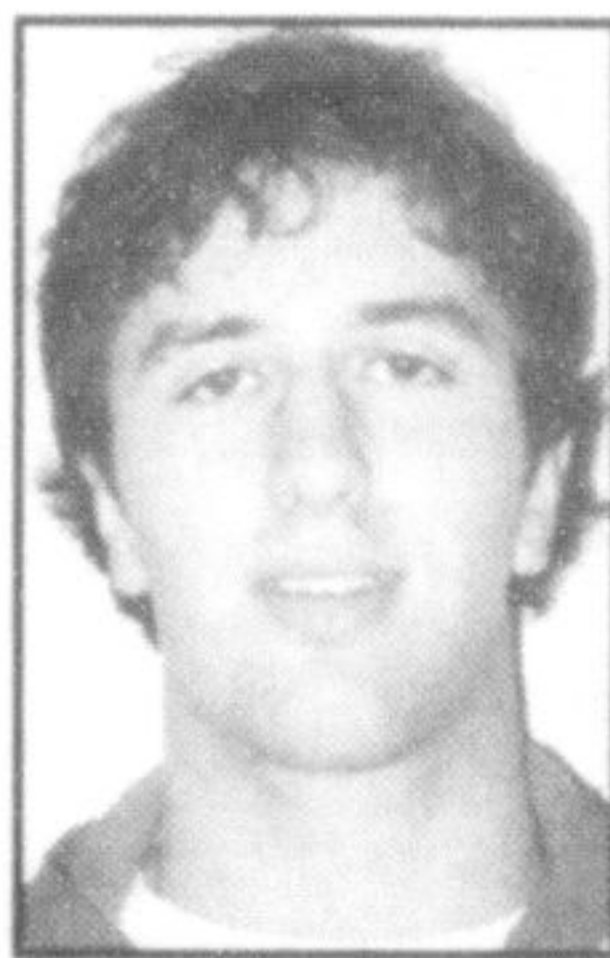
Kleiman stellar between the pipes through early going

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

The Champion

It's a good thing for the IceHawks that Zach Kleiman doesn't take as long reacting to shots on net as he does answering a seemingly simple question like where he's from.

"Well I was born in Saskatoon, we moved to Toronto when I was about four and then to Ottawa when I was six — but I've spent summers back there (Saskatoon)," explained the 19-year-old goalie, grinning at his longer-than-anticipated response. "I'm kind of from both (Saskatoon and Ottawa) and my family's pretty spread out."



Zach Kleiman

Any way you slice it, Kleiman's covered as many miles to play in Milton as any junior puckstopper in recent memory. And he's certainly covering an awful lot of net these days — having turned back 124 of 129 shots in his first four outings.

That 96.1 save percentage has put the IceHawks atop the Western Conference — with a 4-0-1 record — and served to overshadow both a thinned-out blueline and the occasional stretch of lacklustre play.

"Zach's been unbelievable. He always makes the first save and in many cases makes the second one as well," said assistant coach Glen Tucker, following Sunday's 4-3 win over Oakville. "He's focused and in a zone right now."

Added Kleiman, "I'm feeling pretty strong."

Never out of position and rarely fazed in high-traffic situations, the 6'3", 210 lbs. cager has been seeing quite a bit of rubber these days while the IceHawks struggle to



put together a full defensive unit.

But that's nothing new for the uprooted prairie boy, who was kept quite busy backstopping the embattled Gloucester Rangers of the Central Jr. A Hockey League last year. He remarked, "I'm use to 50-plus shot games."

Kleiman's early-season efforts were highlighted with Friday's 2-0 shutout off the high-flying Hamilton Red Wings, against whom he turned back 42 shots in a game that could easily have gone the other way.

Assistant captain and scoring leader Matt Price sealed the deal with a doorstep deposit — on a great extra effort — with four-and-a-half minutes remaining. Matt Read put Milton ahead on a first-period

powerplay.

Already missing veteran Jason Fortino to a rib injury, Milton would drop to three defencemen during Sunday's clash with Oakville — as Ryan Bernardi sat out with a tooth abscess and newly-acquired Josh Saywell of the Western Hockey League's Kootany Ice was tossed for head checking early in the second.

But Kleiman's sharp cage work and two goals by rookie blueliner Cody Goulebef allowed the IceHawks to persevere through a couple of lacklustre periods — after which they led 3-1 despite being physically manhandled and out-shot 30-10.

Read saw spot duty on defence to help fill the void and buried an upstairs wire

midway through the second, while Kevin Morrison notched the eventual game winner in similar fashion early in the third.


Milton began a three-games-in-four-days stretch in Brampton Thursday night — battling to a 1-1 stalemate with the offensively-challenged but fundamentally-sound Capitals.

Back-up netminder Andrew Loverock had his shutout bid spoiled with under two minutes left, while Morrison sank the would-be winner late in the second.

The IceHawks could have a full blueline — something they've yet to enjoy this season — at some point this week, though not likely for tomorrow evening's trip to Mississauga.

Milton goalie Zach Kleiman contends with former IceHawks turned-Oakville Blade Ryan Silveira in Sunday afternoon action at Memorial Arena.

Photo by GRAHAM PAINE



Milton Minor Baseball Association

COME OUT AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THE 2006 SEASON!!!

MAJOR MOSQUITO	MINOR MOSQUITO	PEEWEE	ROOKIE BALL SENIOR & JUNIOR
Sept 20th 6:30 - 8:00 pm	Sept 24th 12:30 - 2:30 pm	Sept 17th 10:00 - 12:00 pm	Sept 24th 12:30 - 2:30 pm
Sept 24th 2:30 - 4:30 pm	Sept 25th 12:30 - 2:30 pm	Sept 18th 2:00 - 4:00 pm	Sept 25th 12:30 - 2:30 pm
Sept 25th 10:30 - 12:30 pm		Sept 24th 12:00 - 2:00 pm	
		Sept 25th 2:00 - 4:00 pm (invitation only)	

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Saturday, October 1st, 2005
 Milton Sports Centre
 Room to be announced.

905-876-2288
 All tryouts are at Rotary Park, or visit us online at www.milton-baseball.org and download an application form.

President's Thanks 2005

The Volunteers

I would like to thank all the volunteers for all the years you have put forth the effort to make baseball or any sport a joy for our children. I hope that you have also enjoyed the quality time you have volunteered so much of your efforts and energy to.

I started out coaching my son, soon after I realized I could do more and I'm not even a Mom. I'm just someone who knew I could do more with as much time as I could allow for the love of the game and perhaps put a smile on a person's face or mine.

In these times where it's easy to know where your child is, that is - where else - in front of the computer or game cube. And

it's easy to say, "At least I know where they are, and I don't have to be anywhere else". Growing up in Grimsby, I had the chief of police that lived down the street. He didn't like us playing sports in the street, when he caught us, which wasn't often, he would take our bat and ball for a week or two. Didn't matter too much to us, we just changed sports, and out came the football.

If he already had one sport covered he never caught us for the next one. We made sure of that. The school yard was a 1000 yards away, but you couldn't hear the call for dinner, so the street was much more convenient. Can you play on the streets today? Slow down, on McNabb, there's always a hockey game there.

Remember your childhood when there was no computer and

you couldn't wait to get outside and play all the seasonal sports. It's that time again. Put a baseball glove on or a soccer shoe and take your child outside. I know, I've heard this "You work, you don't have the time, you're a working Mom or Dad and commute. Well take a look around, we all do. My wife bought me a great t-shirt that says, "We Interrupt This Marriage to Bring You The Baseball Season" I wear it every chance I can and it is good for a laugh or two. Everyone likes it and wishes they had one. West Edmonton Mall and they'll even mail it to you.

Come on become a volunteer, some jobs take just a little time, some a little bit more time, some jobs are very short and use little time. If you haven't the time, make time. You know you can. It takes a lot of people to make this work and many hands

make light work. For the past few years there were far too few of us to make baseball run smoothly. Some of us are tired because of it and need to get back to basics and remember to have fun. For some it's because their children have grown up and no longer need the fun, but are ready to sit back and relax. No sport can survive without volunteers whether you coach, convene, or become a board member and do the little things to make it all work.

Come out to the Milton Minor Baseball AGM on Oct 1, 2005, 9:30 AM at Milton Sports Center. I'll tell you more and all about the rewards of contributing some time and effort to our community. Some of us will be saying our FAREWELLS after many years of being the ONES TO FIND THE TIME TO volunteer.

Michael Brady, President of MMBA