

Red-hot IceHawks topple north Halton rivals

Convincing win strengthens hold on top spot in conference

By HERB GARBUTT

Special to The Champion

Having averaged only eight regular season losses over the past three seasons, the Georgetown Raiders are not used to playing catch-up.

But that's exactly the situation they find themselves in a month into the Provincial Jr. A Hockey League season. With Saturday's 5-1 loss, the Raiders (8-5-1) slipped six points behind the Milton IceHawks (11-0-1-1) in the Western Conference standings.

Milton hasn't made things easy for them, taking 24 of a possible 26 points to occupy the number one spot in the national Jr. A rankings — a spot held at times last season by the Raiders.

But the Raiders haven't made things easy for themselves either.

After nearly handing the IceHawks their first regulation loss in their previous meeting, the Raiders didn't show nearly as much fight this time around.

"We didn't win one battle," said defenceman Matt Sitko, who scored the Raiders lone goal to even the score at 1-1 in the first. "They (IceHawks) outworked us. It would have been nice to gain some ground, especially after that last one that we should have had."

The IceHawks didn't let the Raiders enjoy Sitko's goal for very long. Within two minutes, Kevin Morrison had put Milton back in front to stay.

Dan Falbo added to the lead with the only goal of the second period and Matt Read put the game away with a shorthanded goal early in the third — extending his current goal-scoring streak to five games. He now sits tied with Matt Price and Jeff Caister for the team scoring lead with 18 points.

Saturday was the 10th game this season in which Milton allowed two goals or less. It also marked the debut of recently-acquired Jr. B standout Adam DeJong — out for two weeks with a minor knee injury — who drew an assist on Paolo Bottiglia's first-period tally.

The IceHawks' Friday night home game against the Oakville Blades was postponed when the zaboni broke down shortly before the warm-up. The game has yet to be rescheduled.

The IceHawks have just one game this week, Friday's home-ice tilt with the Mississauga Chargers, who haven't won since trimming Milton in overtime September 21. Game time, as always, is 7:30 p.m.



Photo by HERB GARBUTT

IceHawks' Adam DeJong gets a shot away despite being hooked by Georgetown's Rob Sgarbossa during Saturday's 5-1 win at Gordon Alcott Arena.

New announcer hired for race circuit

Ken Middleton Jr., who joined the Woodbine Entertainment Group/Ontario Jockey Club as an in-house television host in 1998, has accepted the role of standardbred race announcer at Mohawk and Woodbine.

Prior to joining WEG, Middleton was the race announcer/host at Flamborough Downs from 1994 to 1998, after previously working at Elmira Raceway.

"Ken has done an outstanding job for us as the lead broadcast host for standardbred racing in our various platforms," said

Jamie Martin, WEG's Vice-President of Standardbred Racing. "We are pleased that he has agreed to accept the position as our announcer and represent the Woodbine Entertainment Group as the voice of standardbred racing at Mohawk and Woodbine racetracks."

When the OJC began producing network broadcasts for Sportsnet in 1999, and later moved to The Score Television Network, Middleton also took on the hosting role of those programs, as well as maintaining his simulcast duties.

Additionally, he frequently filled in for the now departed Frank Salive when he was on vacation or otherwise engaged.

"I've thoroughly enjoyed every aspect of contributing to all of WEG's broadcasting and I consider this to be the next logical step," said Middleton.

"Announcing races has always been a true passion of mine, and to be given the opportunity to call at Woodbine and Mohawk is an honour and a tremendous thrill."

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