

# IceHawks impressive in shutout

*Sharp cage work by Kleiman and gritty play allow Milton to blank host Oakville*

By **STEVE LeBLANC**  
*The Champion*

The IceHawks offered another reminder of their championship potential in Oakville Friday night.

In a playoff-like clash with the Blades — whom many believe are better than their record and mid-pack status in the Western Conference — Milton delivered a spirited and fundamentally-sound performance to prevail 2-0.

It was the first win for the IceHawks at Oakville's Twin Rinks Arena and their first shutout over the Blades in recent memory.

Zach Kleiman stopped all 21 shots for his second perfect game of the year, while Jason Bergeron and Ryan Bernardi scored on second and third-period rushes respec-

tively to push the division front-runners' winning streak to 10 games.

That's a stark contrast to this time last year, when the IceHawks were in the midst of a mid-season tailspin that saw them limp into the playoffs on a five-game losing skid.

However, the local juniors haven't been without adversity in recent weeks — with distraction from the loss of suspended head coach/general manager George Dupont and an accompanying rash of internet scuttlebutt — which makes Friday's win all the more encouraging.

"Zach played a great game and we executed well," said interim head coach Joe Washkurak. "We wanted it more than them (Blades) and this is a big win for our organ-

ization, especially with all that's been happening. We're really proud of the guys."

Milton persevered through some occasional rough play for what was arguably its biggest road win of the season and got assists from Jeff Aonso, Kevin Morrison and Matt Price — who represented the IceHawks at Wednesday's CJAHL Prospect's Game in Yorkton, Saskatchewan.

His Team East squad was trimmed 5-4 by the West.

Goals were also tough to come by in Brampton Thursday evening, when the IceHawks turned aside the host Capitals 3-1 — on the strength of two first-period goals by Brandon DeFazio and some steady cage work by back-up netminder Andrew Loverock.

After being a healthy scratch one game earlier against Burlington, DeFazio scored on near-identical upstairs wires four minutes apart to put Milton ahead. From there, Kole Bryce would connect on an odd-man rush late in the second and Milton would hang on with some solid positional play.

Thursday's game marked the first test against newly-acquired Brampton goalie Wyatt Russell, the 19-year-old son of big screen stars Kurt Russell and Goldie Hawn.

Now 26-2-1-1, the IceHawks will look to stay unbeaten at home Friday when they host the red-hot Hamilton Red Wings. Saturday they close out the week with a trip to Georgetown.

# Strong turnout expected for alumni game

Milton's junior hockey alumni game is quickly gaining steam.

Set for December 23 at Memorial Arena — just prior to the IceHawks' clash with Oakville — the inaugural event has drawn interest from roughly two dozen former players from a variety of different eras.

Native Miltonians Jeff Haydar, Jamie and Doug Janjevich, Mark and Mike McPhail, John Nadalin, Mike Cox and Pat Henneberry are among those expected to play, as well as ex-Steamers and early Merchant alumni Steve Scannell, Paulo Julian, Chris Turner and Mike McIlraith.

Prospective players from more recent years include Jon Ornelas and James Coleman, whose father Jim — a Milton alumnus from the 1960s — will also be lacing up the skates.

The IceHawks are also hoping to have another father-son combo in the form of Bert and Scott Bertoli, but that'll depend on Scott getting permission to play from his ECHL Trenton Titans.

Former Milton junior coach Bob (Pie) Lee will be behind the bench for one side, while the club is looking at having Bruce Hood officiate the game.

The alumni contest begins at 6 p.m. and all former players — whether they play or not — are welcome to stick around upstairs in the Lions Hall and take in the Milton-Oakville game afterwards.

Ex-Milton players wishing to sign up for the game are asked to call David Dermo at (905) 875-4444.

# 'AA' minor atoms battle to two ties with Oakville

December is becoming quite the stalemate for Milton's AA minor atoms.

The Winterhawks have tied four times already this month, including twice last week. The latest draw came at Milton Sports Centre Sunday afternoon, when they battled to a 3-3 finish with the Oakville Rangers — who scored inside the final minute of play to spoil the hosts' victory party.

Marcus Kotyk led offensively with a goal and an assist, while also scoring were Austin Dezeeuw and Ben Preisner.

Sunday marked a case of déjà vu for the two Halton rivals, who had battled to an identical tie just three nights earlier in Oakville.

Preisner, Aidan Atkinson and Jacob Quinn potted the goals in that one, while Gooding contributed a pair of assists, with Rourke Ferguson and Graydon Wessinger drawing one each.

Between the pipes for both games was Connor Hallyburton.

Sandwiched between these stalemates was Friday's 2-1 win in Guelph.

Nicholas Hoffman backstopped the Winterhawks to victory, with Wessinger netting the first goal and then helping set up Quinn's game winner.

## Minor peewees climbing

Milton's AA minor peewees pulled to within a game of .500 with two wins late last week.

At Memorial Arena Saturday, a hat-trick

## Rep Hockey

by Nicholas Garcia powered the Winterhawks to a 5-1 victory over St. Catharines. Liam Robinson and Ross Morgan contributed singles, while strong defensive play from Michael Simpson, Olivia Whitford and Mitchell Adamson complemented rock-solid goaltending by Matthew Psenicka.

In a high-tempo shootout two nights earlier at Milton Sports Centre, the Winterhawks trimmed Orangeville 7-6.

Conner Hakime and call-up Kevin Friesen each tallied twice, with singles chipped in by Garcia, Liam Robinson, Eric Schroder — who also provided some thunderous checks.

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### Are There Safeguards For Paying Customers?

**Rigorous plate denial procedures minimize the chance of errors.**

Individuals cannot have the renewal or issuance of a plate denied unless they have an outstanding balance for at least 125 days. 407 ETR must follow a detailed set of legislated rules, procedures and timelines.

### What If I Have A Dispute?

**You have the right to dispute a plate denial notice to an independent arbitrator.**

As part of the plate denial process, you are given the opportunity to take a dispute to an independent arbitrator. The independent arbitrators are selected by the Ontario Government and the disputes will be resolved expeditiously.

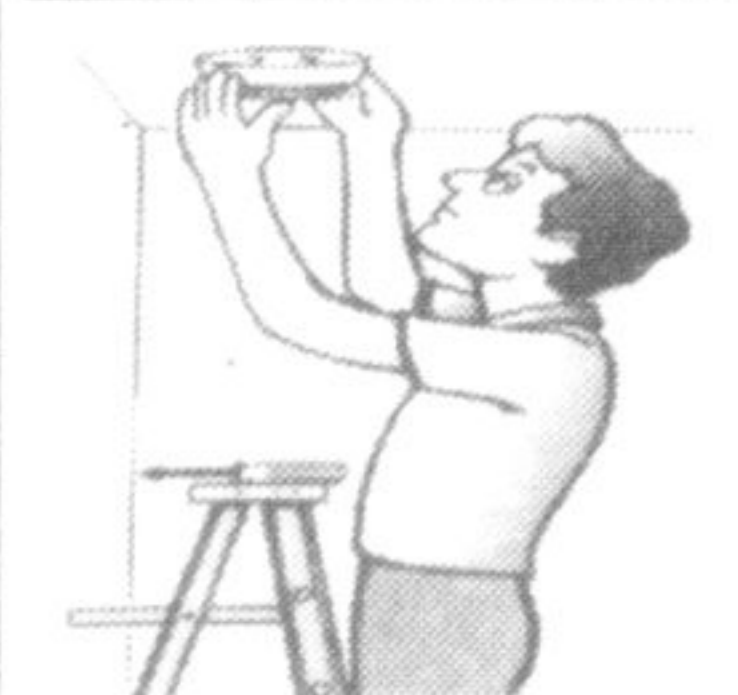
### Where Can I Get More Information?

For more information regarding plate denial, please go to [www.407etr.com/platedenial](http://www.407etr.com/platedenial).

If you used the highway and have not paid your bill, you can call 407 ETR Customer Service immediately at 1-888-407-0407 or visit [www.407etr.com](http://www.407etr.com) to pay your account.



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