

Sports

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So close

Halton Hurricane Bryce Abraham splits Brampton's defense but (above) can't quite bury his breakaway shot during AAA atom play at Memorial Arena Saturday. Brampton eked out a 4-3 decision in a game that featured local talent on either side. Along with Abraham, Jason DaSilva, Tyler Ganly and Ryan Stark play for the Hurricanes, while fellow Miltonians Gareth Browne and J.J. Stimson are part of the Battalion. The teams had battled to a tie in their last two meetings.

Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

IceHawks remain perfect at Memorial

Home-ice supremacy continues with decisive win over Hamilton

By STEVE LeBLANC
The Champion

Beating the IceHawks anywhere this season has been an awfully tough task, and doing so on their own turf has been an impossible one.

Sitting at a perfect 17-0 at Memorial Arena —

with only a couple of legitimate tests remaining — the local juniors could well put together their first unbeaten home-ice campaign this year.

Friday night promised to be the IceHawks' stiffest challenge at the Thompson Road barn in several weeks, with second-place Hamilton — victorious in 12 of its last 13 games — providing the opposition.

However, the Red Wings didn't exactly prove

worthy foes for the conference front-runners.

In fact, the 4-1 final was quite flattering for the visitors, who made poor decisions with the puck all evening long and botched pretty much all of their powerplay opportunities — the second of which resulted in a shorthanded tally for IceHawks' scoring leader Matt Read.

Kevin Morrison cemented the win with a third-period marker — slipping it through Cameron Talbot's pads with just over five minutes remaining — and assisted on a second-period powerplay goal by Ryan Bernardi.

Aaron Lewicki, extremely dependable since returning from an ECHL tryout in Pensacola, Florida in late October, scored on a giveaway just before second intermission.

At Georgetown's Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena Saturday, Milton was offensively dormant for most of the night and needed a third-period goal by hometown sophomore Matt Price to tie the Raiders 2-2.

Jason Bergeron set up the equalizer on a nifty cross-ice feed, while Dan Falbo stabbed in a loose puck 2:49 into the game to put the IceHawks ahead.

Georgetown's goals came a mere 14 seconds apart late in the opening frame, with

Campbellville's Rob Sgarbossa factoring into the second deposit with a big face-off win.

Backup netminder Andrew Loverock got a somewhat surprising start Saturday and turned back 18 straight shots — including three in overtime — after allowing the back-to-back goals.

The IceHawks sat at 27-2-1-2 heading into last night's trip to Hamilton. Friday they finish out the calendar year at home against Oakville, starting at 7:30 p.m.

Preceding it will be the club's alumni game, which is set to feature former players from a variety of different areas — going as far back as the 1960s. The one-hour game gets underway at 6 p.m.

Most of the ex-local players — including Jeff Haydar, Jamie and Doug Janjevich, Mark and Mike McPhail, Pat Henneberry and John Nadalin — are expected to lace up the skates.

While the IceHawks won't be part of this year's Newmarket Showcase, one of their players will be busy over the holidays. Rookie defenceman Cody Goloubeff heads to Regina, Saskatchewan early next week to compete with Team Ontario at the World Under-17 Championships from December 28 to January 4.

His provincial squad will battle the United States, Slovakia, Quebec and Team West (Alberta) in preliminary play.

Western Conference (standings as of yesterday)

Team	G	W	L	T	OL	PT
Milton	32	27	2	2	1	57
Hamilton	37	26	10	1	0	53
Burlington	33	20	11	1	1	42
Georgetown	34	18	13	1	2	39
Oakville	34	17	12	3	2	39
Streetsville	33	15	15	1	2	33
Mississauga	34	13	17	4	0	30
Brampton	34	13	18	3	0	29
Bramalea	36	9	25	1	1	20
Buffalo	36	4	28	4	0	12

Storm third at own tourney

The 15-and-under Milton Storm's weekend efforts were good enough to bronze.

Determined to come away with a medal from their own 10-team McGregor Cup Saturday at Bishop Reding Secondary School, the local girls volleyball team turned back the Cambridge Hawks 25-23, 25-16 in the battle for third place.

Jenna Bray excelled in the back court, while the entire Storm complement — including all of the replacements — delivered impressive contributions to the victory.

"It was a real team effort. Everyone played well," said head coach Doug Veldman.

Milton's top-three finish was due in large part to a quarterfinal comeback decision over the Woodstock Warriors, who looked poised to advance early on — needing just two points to claim the first set and put the pressure on their

hosts.

But the Storm would come through in the clutch, rallying to take game one 27-25 — thanks mainly to dependable middle hitter Meg Rector — and putting things away with a 25-21 second-set triumph.

Remarked Veldman, "Coming back for that first win really lifted our confidence."

From there the local girls lost the fairly competitive semifinals 25-18, 25-20 to the eventual champion Waterdown Raiders, who turned in exceptional serving. They went on to upstage the Waterloo Tiger White squad in a 15-8 championship tiebreaker after splitting the first two games 25-22, 17-25.

Milton won four of its six preliminary round sets — three in a 25-16, 25-12, 25-20 sweep of Chatham