

IceHawks ready to establish new undefeated streak record

Milton will most likely eclipse old mark tonight against Bramalea

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

The IceHawks are in position to break a number of team records this season, including one that's likely to fall tonight in Bramalea.

Barring a huge upset by the ninth-place Blues, Milton will set a new franchise mark of 18 games without a loss. A win or tie tonight will eclipse the previous unbeaten streak established by the 1998/99 Merchants.

The IceHawks put themselves in line to break the record with two more victories this past weekend — beginning with a 3-0 whitewash of the Streetsville Derbys Friday night at Memorial Arena.

While understaffed on the blueline with Jason Fortino and Jordan Skinner out nursing injuries, the hosts suffered only a couple of defensive breakdowns and limited Streetsville's shot count to a respectable 26.

Netminder Zach Kleiman made a couple of big glove saves against Derbys sniper Jason Gorie and was steady overall to pick up his third season shutout — which equals the three he earned with the Central Jr. A League's Gloucester Rangers.

"The defense is always strong and even though they were short tonight they helped me out immensely," said Kleiman, who was also flawless in 2-0 decisions over Hamilton and Oakville in late September

Milton IceHawks (2005/06 statistics)

Player	GP	G	A	PT
M. Read	37	27	21	48
J. Caister	37	8	36	44
A. Lewicki	29	15	28	43
A. Lewicki	37	17	26	43
J. Bergeron	37	9	29	38
M. Price	35	12	24	36
C. Langerap	37	20	15	35
C. Goloubeff	35	7	23	30
L. Dubbin	28	10	19	29
D. Falbo	32	18	11	29
J. Skinner	32	5	16	21
J. Aonso	36	5	16	21
A. DeJong	25	4	16	20
J. Saywell	34	4	14	18
R. Bernardi	35	5	11	16
B. DeFazio	36	10	6	16
J. Fortino	28	4	9	13
J. Teakle	36	3	7	10
K. Bryce	19	2	5	7
Goalie	Record	GAA	SAVE%	
Z. Kleiman	21-2-0-1	1.95	92.2	
A. Loverock	11-0-2-0	1.92	91.7	

mediocre for much of the night until two late goals sealed the deal.

Chase Langerap began and ended the scoring, while linemate Matt Read scored unassisted for his team-leading 26th deposit of the year. Rounding out the productive forward unit, sparkplug Aaron Lewicki drew two helpers.

The following night in Port Credit, the IceHawks pushed their unbeaten streak to 17 games with a 5-2 decision over the thoroughly-depleted Mississauga Chargers.

Kleiman backstopped Milton to victory once again, while five different players lit the lamp — including Langerap, Read, Brandon DeFazio, Dan Falbo and Kevin Morrison.

Following tonight's game with Bramalea, the IceHawks continue a hectic January in Brampton Thursday before returning home to face the Georgetown Raiders Friday.

Their October 14 make-up game with Oakville has been rescheduled for next Tuesday night at Memorial, with an 8:30 p.m. start time.

In addition to the unbeaten streak record, Milton is all but guaranteed to set a new benchmark for fewest goals against in a season — since the record now stands at 127 (set by the 1997/98 All-Ontario championship squad) and the IceHawks have only given up 71 goals with nearly three-quarters of the season complete.

At 32-2-2-1, they've also got a shot at break the franchise's single-season win count of 43, set in 1998/99, and point total of 89 — established that same season.

and early December respectively. "I was just glad I could help them on a night when they needed it. This is really a team shutout."

Somewhat lethargic after Monday's 9-1 blowout in Buffalo, Milton was rather

'AA' minor atoms triumph in league and exhibition play

Milton's AA minor atoms kicked off the new year in style last week — with wins in both league and exhibition play.

The victory in the latter came in the form of a 4-0 at Kitchener Memorial Auditorium Sunday morning. The score was somewhat flattering for the host Jr. Rangers, as the Winterhawks dominated pretty much from start to finish.

Connor Hallyburton worked two-and-a-half periods between the pipes, while Nicholas Hoffman came in to close out the decisive victory.

Rourke Ferguson tallied twice and added an assist, while Ben Preisner matched that point total with a goal and two helpers. Rounding out the scoring was Graydon Wessinger.

At Milton Sports Centre Thursday evening, Preisner potted a pair while Ferguson contributed a goal and an assist to fuel a 4-2 decision over the Burlington Eagles.

Hoffman and his Eagles' counterpart delivered an impressive goaltender's duel, while also standing out with two assists each were Matthew Gooding and Jacob Quinn.

Austin Dezeeuw scored the other goal, while defencemen Robert James and Sam Robson were particularly strong on the breakout.

The Winterhawks sat at 11-9-5 prior to last night's home-ice tilt with Oakville. They continue a four-game stand at MSC tonight versus Ancaster and wrap up regular-season play Friday evening with Stoney Creek.

Hurricanes give disjointed effort

Halton's minor midgets scored a couple of two-goal decisions late last week, but their efforts were hardly as consistent as their margin of victory.

Playing down to their competition at Memorial Arena Saturday afternoon, the Hurricanes offered little in the way of intensity or attention to detail for much of the game. As a result, they needed a last-minute empty netter by James Woodcroft — one of seven Milton-area players on the team — to put away the lowly Brampton Battalion 6-4.

"We didn't bring our 'A' game and allowed them to stay in it," said head coach Mike Kalapaca. "It just goes to show you've got to come willing to play every game."

The Battalion — who include big Milton defenceman Brandon Rae-Hunt — kept upset hopes alive with a pair of third-period goals and capitalized on two powerplays with blueline screen shots.

On the plus side for Halton, Brayden Abraham — who's had a little trouble putting up points in his jump to the 'AAA' ranks this season — continued a strong week with a goal and an assist, while Connor McMonagle was back in the lineup after needing a hip adjustment around the holidays. He appears to be his strong-skating self again and sank the Hurricanes' initial tally.

Returning to the bench Saturday was Kalapaca, who was suspended a game after his team surpassed the three-dozen penalty minutes limit in Welland December 22.

That left assistant Dan Sales to take the reins in Stoney Creek Thursday night, when the Hurricanes showed a lot more desire and doubled up the Bulldogs 4-2.

Halton severely limited their hosts' chances through the final two periods and got goals from Abraham and Woodcroft.

Called up from Milton's AA minor midgets, left winger Matt Welna delivered an impressive performance and was credited with an assist.

Now 16-5-3 in league play, the Hurricanes begin a two-game road trip tonight in St. Catharines.

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