

## Gripping lesson

Grade 12 student Thuy Ly explains how to hold a badminton racket to Amandeep Johal in a combined effort with E.C. Drury's annual 15-hour field hockey-a-thon last Friday.

Photo by SABRINA BYRNES

# Heart-breaking loss leaves Armstrong one win out of Scotts playoff picture

By STEVE LeBLANC  
*The Champion*

It was a roller-coaster week for Leigh Armstrong and her Chrissy Codorin-skipped rink in Thunder Bay.

Unfortunately, the ride ended a little earlier than the 23-year-old Miltonian would have preferred at the Scotts Tournament of Hearts Ontario Championships at the Fort Francis Curling Club.

Unable to sustain any momentum until the final day of round-robin competition, Armstrong and company finished their rather erratic campaign at 5-4 — just one win shy of advancing to the weekend playdowns.

"It's disappointing. You get to this level and your goal is obviously to win. However, we didn't play horrible or anything. We'd just like to have had a few shots back," said the local curler, now a three-time competitor at the Scotts' Ontario championship.

For the most part, the results were far from dramatic for Armstrong's Guelph squad — which lost rounds one, three and five 8-0, 9-0 and 8-0 respectively and scored three lopsided victories of their own. The last of these came in the form of a 10-4 toppling of Nancy Wickham to cap a two-round sweep Thursday.

That would have been enough to crack the top four had Wednesday's 9-1 loss to Marilyn Bodogh gone the other way. While that round-seven defeat essentially took her team out of contention, Armstrong said a tournament-opening shutout at the hands of eventual champion Krista Scharf was especially tough to swallow — since it marked a rematch from last year's semifinals.



Leigh Armstrong

"That definitely hurt," she said.

From a personal standpoint, Armstrong felt fairly satisfied with her performance up north — particularly since she had to move up a spot to vice only a few short weeks ago to replace an otherwise committed Denna Schell.

"It takes a while to get use to this kind of change and start gelling again, but I think I did okay. Christy and I were communicating well in the house."

Armstrong will get another shot at a provincial championship in April, when her John Epping-led mixed rink — which captured national gold in Whitehorse, Yukon in November — vies for an Ontario repeat in Orangeville.

## Minor atoms poised to send Battalion packing

Milton's AA minor atoms were supposed to be clear-cut underdogs for second round OMHA play against the Brampton Battalion.

The only thing is, someone forgot to tell them that.

As of last night, the Winterhawks were in the improbable position of being able to sweep the top-ranked Battalion, thanks to back-to-back weekend victories.

The latter of these came in dramatic fashion, as Dillon Carter scored from in close three minutes into sudden death to punctuate a 3-2 victory at Milton Sports

Centre Sunday evening.

Matthew Gooding set up the game two winner with a huge burst up the right side and well-placed feed over to Carter, while Adam Wilson and Jacob Quinn contributed second-period goals.

Drawing the other helpers were Aidan Atkinson, Rourke Ferguson, Ben Preisner and Graydon Wessinger.

Netminder Nicholas Hoffman scrambled to make a number of nail-biting saves down the stretch, as did his Battalion counterpart.

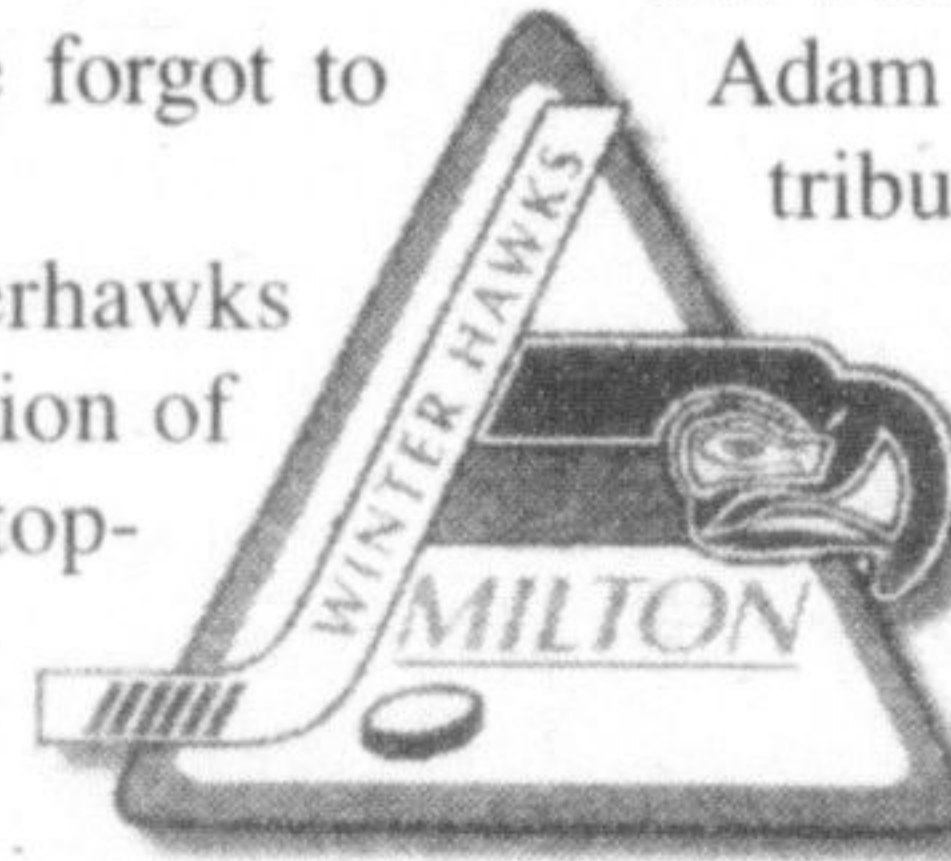
In Brampton Friday night, Quinn exploded for three third-period goals to

power a 4-2 comeback win over the stunned hosts — who no doubt figured victory was in the bag after jumping out to an early 2-0 lead.

Ferguson and Preisner also stood out with three and two-assist efforts respectively. Rounding out the scoring with a second-period deposit to kick start the turnaround was Atkinson, while Wessinger, Austin Dezeuw and Sam Robson drew one assist each.

Connor Hallyburton was sharp between the pipes through the final two periods to give Milton a chance to rally.

If necessary, game four will be played at MSC Thursday at 6:30 p.m.



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