

# Youth football sign-up this weekend

Milton, are you ready for some football?

OK, minor football may not exactly be coming to Milton but a joint effort between the Halton Invictas and Halton Hills Wildcats is being launched to make the game more accessible to local players.

And players will get their first chance to sign up at a registration at the Milton Mall this weekend.

Invictas president Jack Crawford said he has been looking to develop football talent for many years. He spoke to students at Milton District High School five years ago and that year he had one or two Milton players come out to play for his regional junior varsity and varsity teams. Last year that total grew to 10-20.

"There are a lot good players but not enough to have a team," he said.

Crawford believes there would be

enough to field a Milton team if players got involved in the game at a younger age.

However, until launching an all-Oakville peewee team for the coming season, the Invictas didn't offer teams for players below the age of 15.

"If they learn to love the sport, they'll stick with it," Crawford said.

That's where the Halton Hills organization comes in. It offers house league teams at the tyke (9-10) and atom level (11-12), and rep teams at peewee (13-14) and junior varsity (15-16).

"It's not a merger, just a good working relationship," Crawford said. "We're not equipped to handle younger players, they are."

Though Halton Hills and the Invictas both offer junior varsity teams, they play in different leagues. Halton Hills plays in the South Central

Ontario Football League (SCOFL) while the Invictas play in the more competitive Ontario Varsity Football League (OVFL).

Halton Hills will also be able to give young players experience so that they are better equipped to play rep and high school football. And once they reach that age, they will have a choice of rep teams depending on their skill level.

The registration, for players between the ages of nine and 19, will be held Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Milton Mall. Players must bring a copy of their birth certificate and health card. The registration fee is \$320 for house league teams (tyke and atom) and \$360 for rep teams.

All equipment is provided except for cleats and a mouth guard.



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**GOLDEN PERFORMANCE:** Milton's Matthew Hillier — who competes with a Mississauga club — skis to victory in the men's under-22 giant slalom intermediate race in the recent regional competition of the Ontario Special Olympics at Glen Eden. He also took third in the slalom. Fellow Miltonian Adam Kane finished second in the men's 22-39 giant slalom intermediate division.

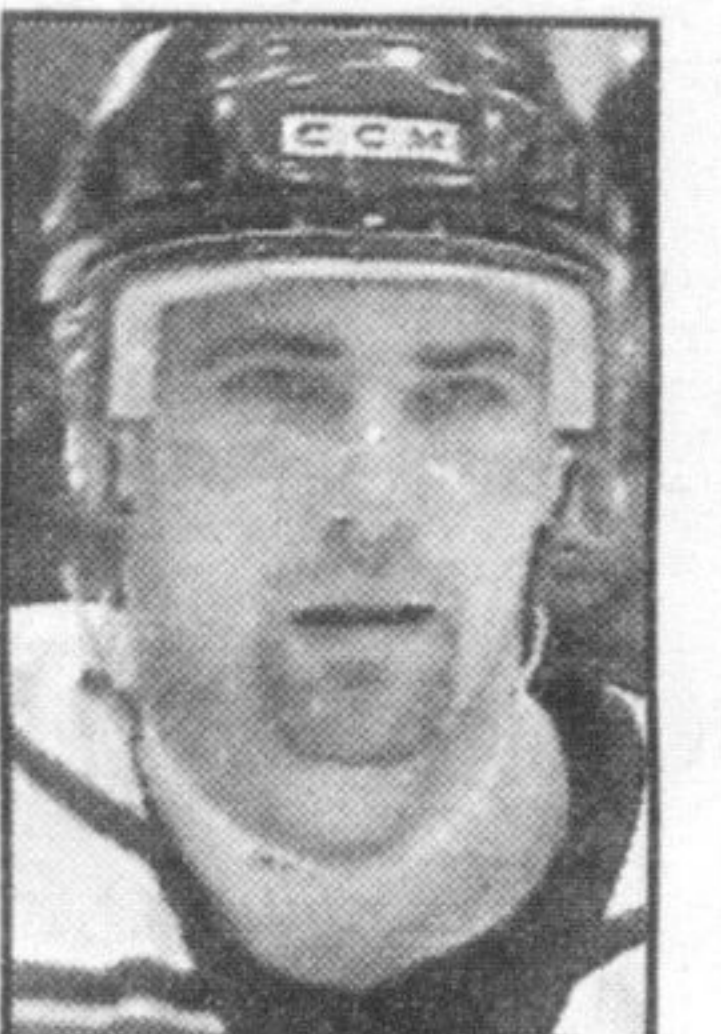
## Hectic yet productive weekend for Bertoli

Scott Bertoli now sits among the top 20 ECHL scorers after a highly productive weekend.

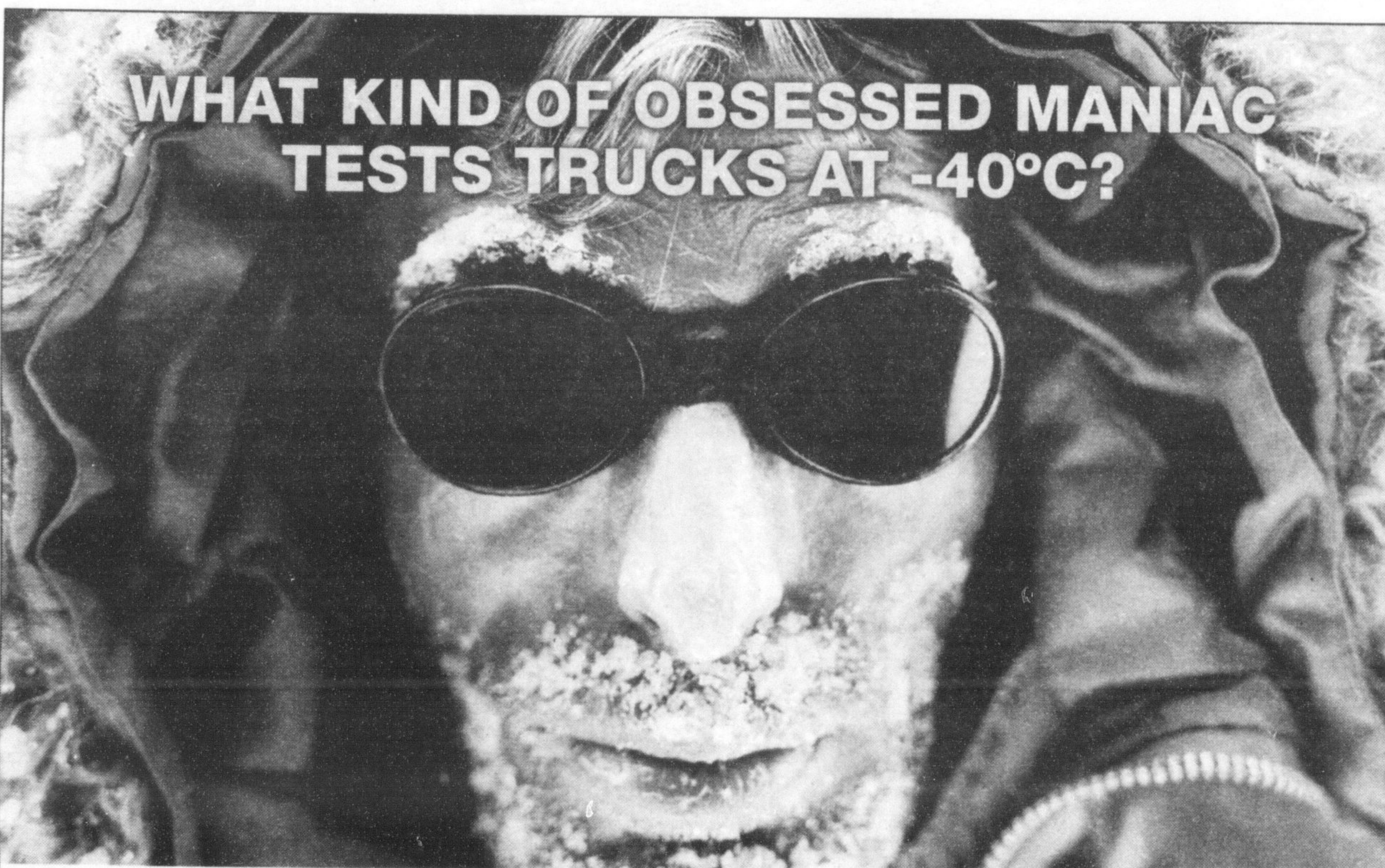
The 28-year-old Miltonian — who's been with the New Jersey-based Trenton Titans since the franchise was formed in 1999 — amassed nine points in three games to boost him to 16th in the league points race.

His biggest single-game output came Friday night, when he collected four assists in a 5-0 whitewash of South Carolina. The 2006 American Conference all-star team captain followed that up with two helpers in Saturday's 3-2 decision over Augusta and a goal and two assists in a 4-3 loss to Gwinnett Sunday.

Bertoli now has 14 goals and 36 assists in 45 games. The Titans continue to struggle from a lack of overall scoring and sits second last in the American Conference's North Division at 23-20-2. They host Reading tomorrow night.



Scott Bertoli



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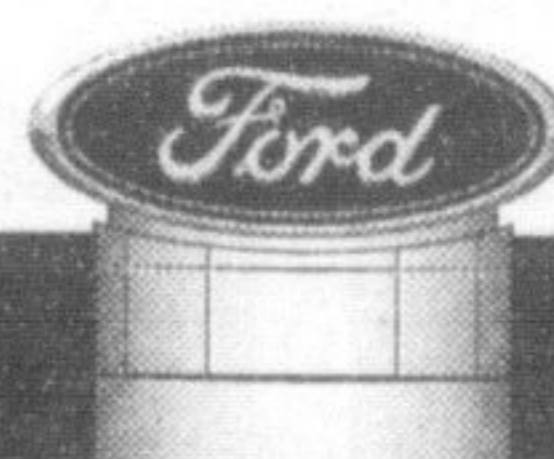
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