

# SPORTS

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## 'Hawks bolster lead with key game two win

*Big goaltending, powerplay work puts Milton up 2-0 in round two*

By Herb Garbutt  
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Given that they've lost just four games all season, the Milton IceHawks have every right to feel confident.

But the IceHawks have been careful not to get too confident. After all, it was the Oakville Blades that handed Milton two of those four losses. That's why Saturday's 3-1 victory meant so much to the IceHawks.

"That was the best win for us all year," said Aaron Lewicki, who had three assists in Friday's 5-2 win and added two more Saturday. "We came to play and we took one in their barn. We haven't lost in our rink all year so it's definitely an advantage for us."

### Milton IceHawks vs. Oakville Blades (Western Conference semifinals)

Game 1	Milton 5, Oakville 2	
Game 2	Milton 3, Oakville 1	
Game 3	Wed. at Memorial	8:00 p.m.
Game 4	Fri. in Oakville	7:30 p.m.
•Game 5	Sun. at Memorial	3:00 p.m.
•Game 6	Mar. 6 in Oakville	7:30 p.m.
•Game 7	Mar. 8 at Memorial	8:00 p.m.
	• if necessary	

By taking a 2-0 lead in the best-of-seven Western Conference semifinal series, Milton has left the Blades facing the daunting task of having to win four out of five from Milton. And at least two of those victories would have to come at Memorial Arena, where the IceHawks are a near-perfect 27-0-1 this season.

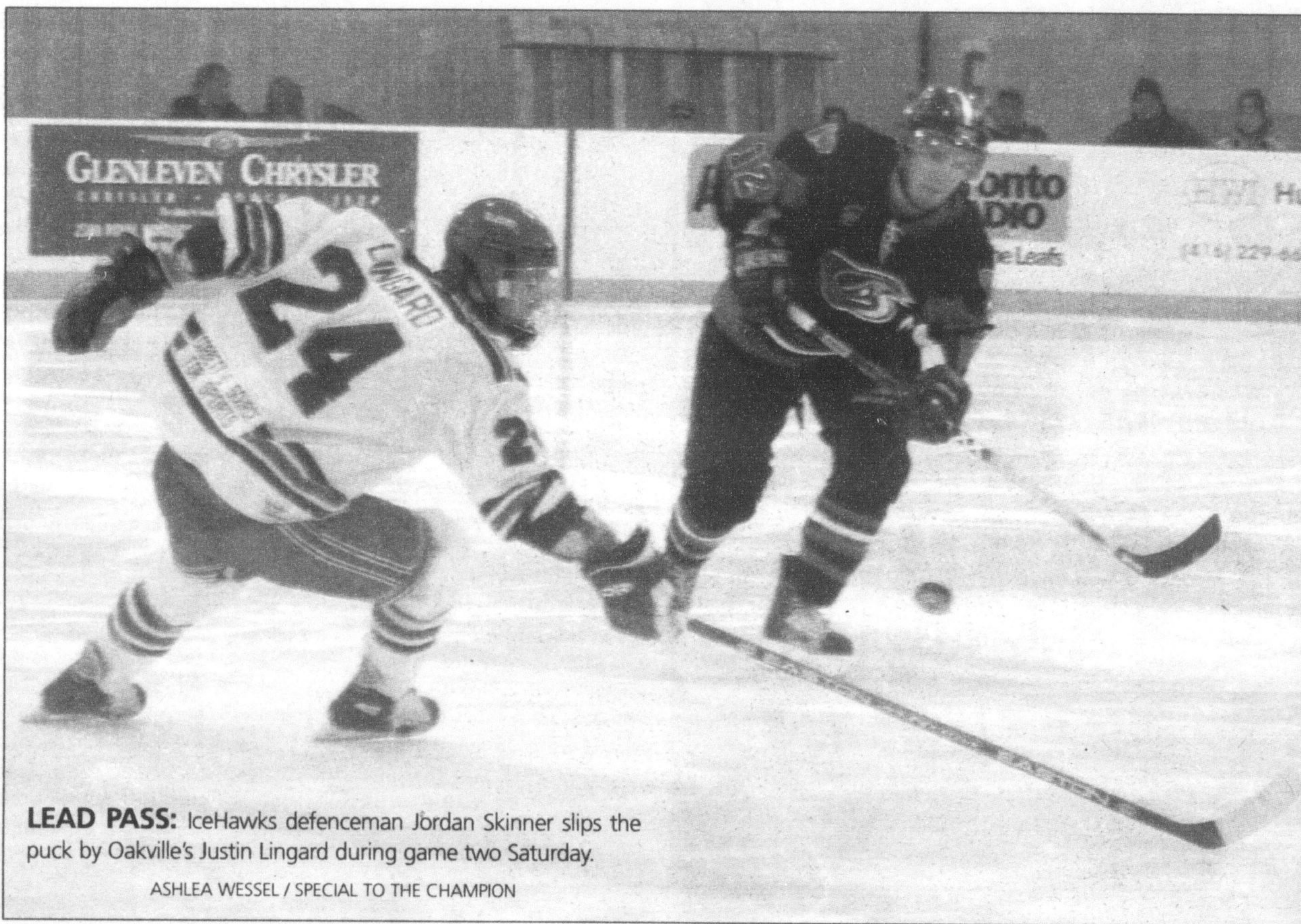
"Hopefully we'll be able to give them their first loss there," said Oakville captain Lane Moodie. "We just have to keep working hard and keep getting pucks through to the net and the goals will come."

Moodie's powerplay goal midway through the first period Saturday had Milton trailing for the first time since the play-offs began. Chase Langerap would take care of that. He scored 2:20 into the second period and then gave Milton the lead in the opening minute of the third when he emerged from a crowd in front of the net to snap a shot past Oakville's Marc Stuart.

Four minutes later, Milton dealt Oakville a major setback when Matt Read's pass hit Dan Falbo in the chest as he drove to the net and redirected it in.

"We weren't winning the 50-50 battles early on and that's what we have to do — win every battle," said Read, who set up all three Milton goals. "We came out flying in the second and when we got breaks we capitalized."

The IceHawks did a good job limiting Oakville's scoring



**LEAD PASS:** IceHawks defenceman Jordan Skinner slips the puck by Oakville's Justin Lingard during game two Saturday.

ASHLEA WESSEL / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

chances Saturday. Milton has allowed only 47 shots on goal in the series. And when there have been breakdowns, Zach Kleiman has been there to bail them out. He delivered a clutch save late in the third on an Oakville powerplay. With the Blades' Jesse Paul parked at the edge of the crease, the IceHawks netminder made the initial stop but Paul looked to have an open net to stuff in the rebound. Instead, Kleiman reached back to snare his shot.

"We're a team that can score but we can also play both ends of the ice," Lewicki said. "And our goalie tonight was unbelievable."

The IceHawks gave Kleiman a little more breathing room Friday, building a 3-0 lead on a goal by Langerap and pair of powerplay markers by Dan Falbo, who now has three goals with the man advantage in the series. Milton had just one powerplay goal in six regular-season games with Oakville. Jason Fortino and Ryan Bernardi added third-period goals.

Milton will have a chance to put a hammerlock on the conference semis tomorrow night at Memorial. Game time is 8 p.m.

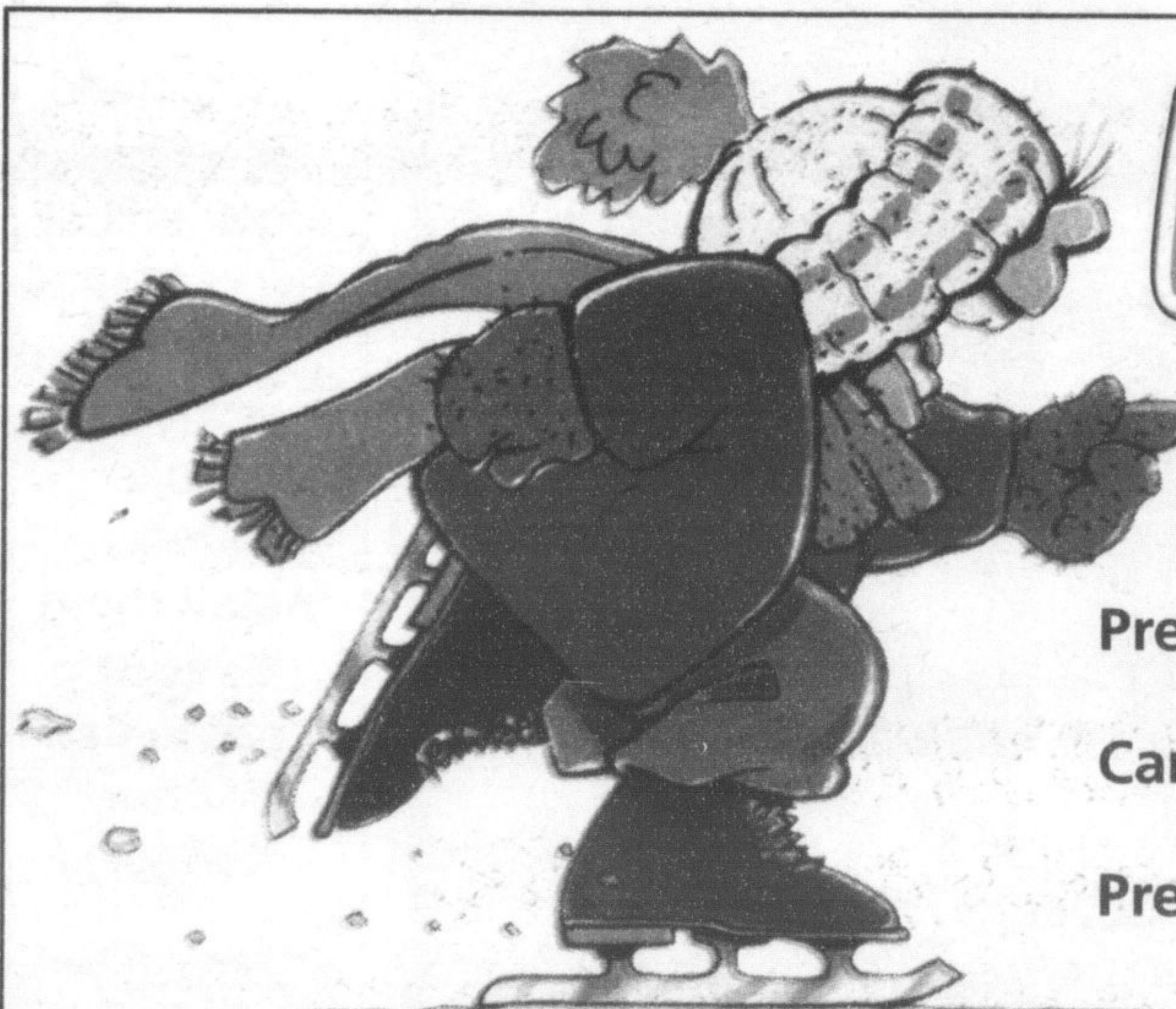
## Twisters golden

North Halton's B peewees secured their second tournament title this past weekend, due in no small part to the efforts of their two local players.

Miltonians Tamara McKelvie and Vanessa Hartwick each had a hand in the Twisters striking gold in Stoney Creek. McKelvie backstopped North Halton to narrow wins over Flamborough (3-1) and Twin Centre (2-1) in rounds one and two respectively, while Hartwick scored the game winner against Twin Centre and delivered a fiery overall performance.

The Twisters went 4-0 at the tournament and clinched the championship with a decisive 5-1 win over the Chicago Chill — who hadn't allowed a single goal heading into the final.

Five different North Halton players scored in the title game, while overall nine lit the lamp in Stoney Creek.



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