Future looks bright for Price

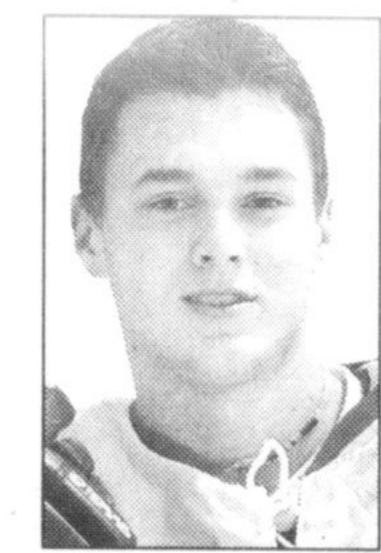
Speedy centre will skate with Frozen Four finalist BC in fall

Matt Price finished watching Saturday night's NCAA Division 1 men's hockey championship game with a little disappointment and a whole lot of optimism.

Of course the 17-year-old Miltonian would have preferred a slightly different ending, as the Boston College Eagles — whom he'll begin playing for this coming fall — were eclipsed 2-1 by the hometown favourite Wisconsin Badgers in Milwaukee.

But given the circumstances, it would have been awfully difficult for Price not to be encouraged about his future in Beantown. After all, Boston College got to the Frozen Four final with one of the youngest rosters in the Division 1 ranks — one that featured 10 freshman and seven sophomores, including starting goalie Cory Schneider.

And with the Eagles losing just three players this spring and just four the year after that, the future looks pretty bright for Price and the Eagles.



"Seeing as how young they are this year, it's amazing how well they did," said Price Sunday morning. "They got a sniff of the championship this year and that'll make them want it all the more next season. Now they know what it takes to get there (championship) and they can share that with me."

Matt Price Now a Milton IceHawks graduate, the speedy centre will get a sneak peak at high stakes play in the Boston area next month, when he competes with the NHL's Central Scouting Ontario team at a tournament in Walpole, Massachusetts.

Playing alongside fellow IceHawk alumni Jason Bergeron — an Ancaster native — the five-foot-10-inch, 170-pounder will be part of a 40-plus team showcase that will be viewed by both NHL and NCAA scouts.

The tournament runs May 12 to 14.

"It's pretty exciting. I'll get a preview of what it'll be like the next four years," said Price.



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Bertoli nets winner in return to Trenton

Win gives Titans some momentum for best-of-three qualifying series

> By Steve LeBlanc CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Scott Bertoli wasted no time reminding New Jersey fans just how valuable he is to their East Coast Hockey League team.

Returning to the Garden State after a three-week stint with the American Hockey League's Norfolk Admirals, the 29-year-old Milton native notched the game winner in the Trenton Titans' 2-1 regular season-ending victory over the Reading Royals Saturday night.

The third-period deposit — a wrist shot that beat goaltender Cody Rudkowsky on the glove side with seven

Scott Bertoli

minutes remaining — was his 20th of the year with the Titans. It also allowed Trenton to snap a three-game losing skid and head into their best-of-three qualifying series against the Johnston Chiefs with a little momentum.

Contributing a goal and two assists in six games with Norfolk, Bertoli once again led Trenton scoring this season with 67 points — which marks the fifth time in seven years that he surpassed the 60-point plateau.

The former Milton Merchant and Princeton Tiger's production and leadership combined to see him named captain of the American Conference for the 2006 ECHL All-Star Game in Fresno, California January 25.

His recent call-up to Norfolk was the third — and longest — of his pro hockey career.

Bertoli hasn't enjoyed nearly as much team success this season, with his defending Kelly Cup champion Titans struggling offensively all year and finishing at a lacklustre 31-36-

The qualifying series with Johnston began last night and continues this evening, with game three — if necessary slated for Thursday.

