

SPORTS

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IceHawks hang tough for first season victory

Regroups from late breakdown in Buffalo to turn back Chargers

Five games into a season isn't usually a time when must-win situations present themselves.

However, Friday's home-ice tilt with Mississauga could certainly have been looked upon as one for the rebuilding IceHawks — at least from a morale standpoint.

Just two days removed from a third-period collapse and subsequent overtime loss to lowly Buffalo, Milton was no doubt in jeopardy of having its confidence drop to a critical low with a second straight letdown in a legitimately winnable game.

But some solid cage work by Tayler Dunn and equally crucial penalty killing prevented that from happening, as the IceHawks hung on to beat the structurally-flawed Chargers 4-2.

Face-off success also played a pivotal role in their first 2006/07 triumph. Milton won far more of those than in Buffalo — or for that matter in all four previous games — while Mark White's eventual winner late in the second period came off a huge draw by Dean Kulla.

Erman Ali buried a powerplay snapshot early in the third for a little insurance after the visitors drew within a goal, while the IceHawks' other marksmen were Matt D'Hollander and Matt Binnington — who started the scoring with their second shorthanded tally of the year.

Dunn turned back 29 of 31 shots, while his teammates killed 11 of 12 penalties.

Milton couldn't quite turn its first win into its first winning weekend, as two powerplay goals by Bruce Crawford in the final 2:14 minutes of play gave Mississauga a 5-3 decision in the following night's rematch at Port Credit Arena.

Despite finishing up on a disappointing note, the now 1-5 IceHawks out-shot the opposition for the first time this year and erased a couple of deficits before being vanquished.

Ali, Allen Petretic and David Vallorani did the scoring.

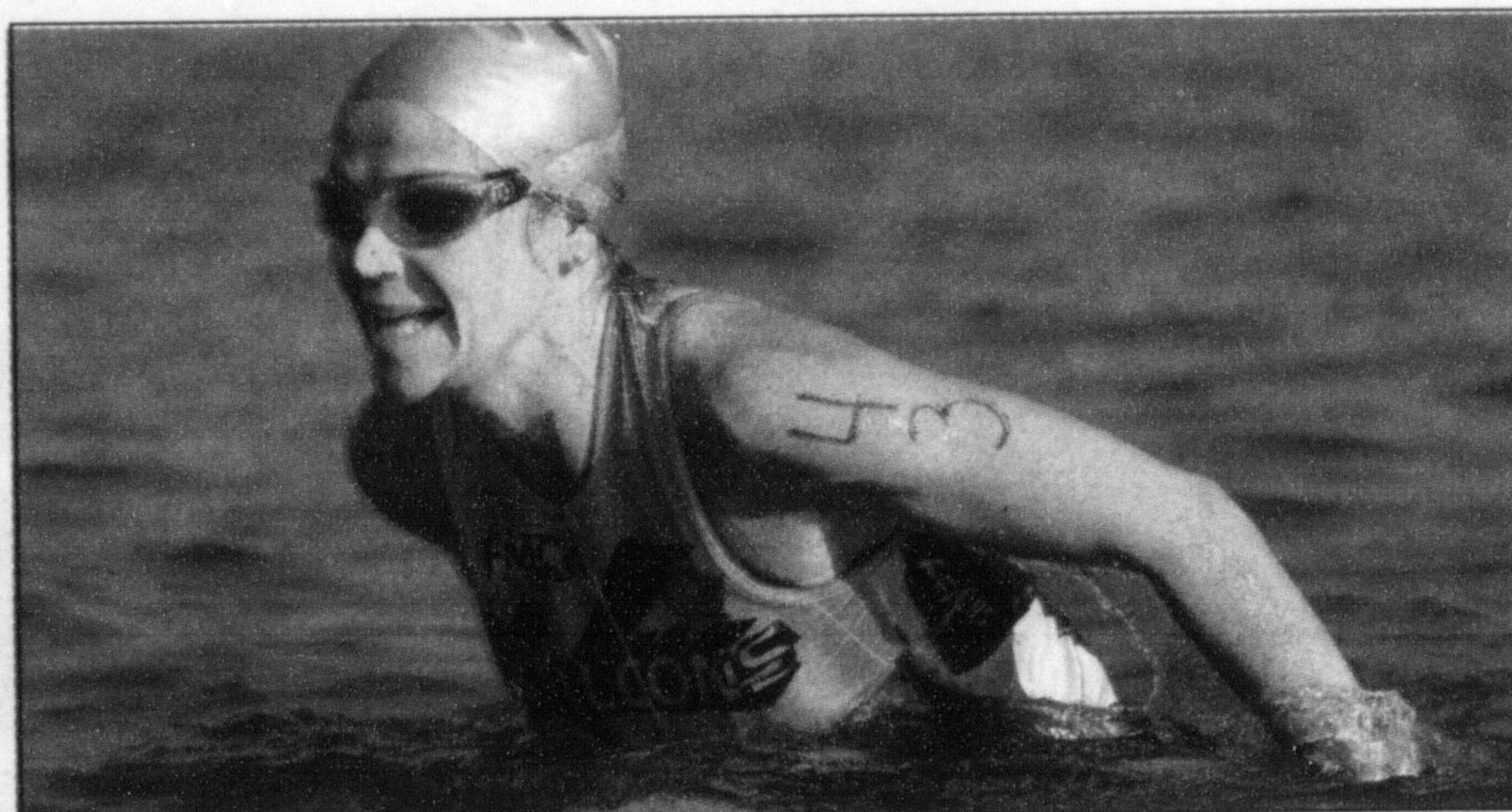
Milton continues a hectic 10-games-in-17-days start to the season tonight at Memorial Arena against the Bramalea Blues. Game time is 7:30 p.m.

• see related stories on page A17



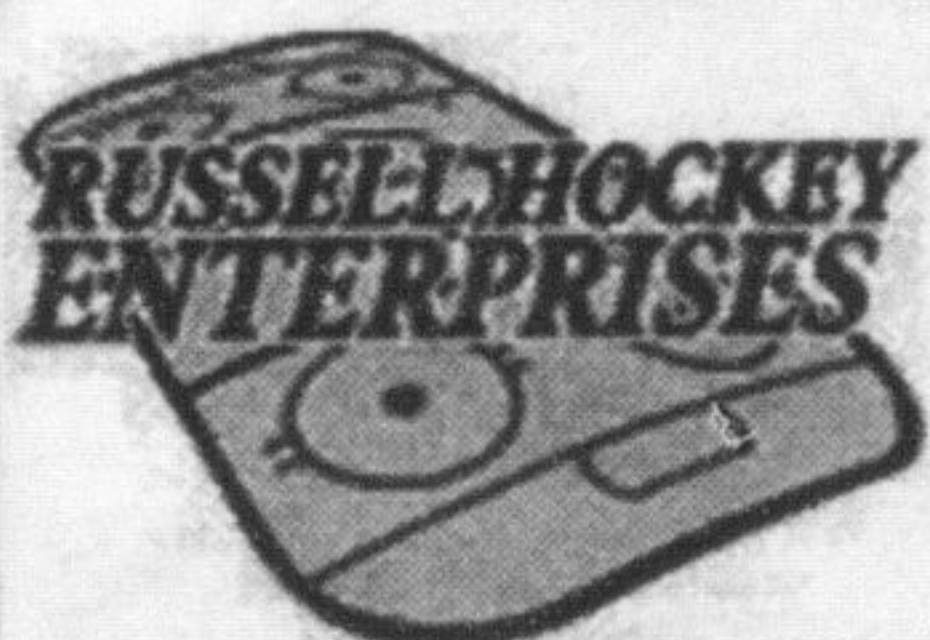
ON THE MOVE: Above, Milton's Vicki Bogert heads out onto the bike portion of the Super Sprint Triathlon (375m swim, 10km bike, 2.5 km run) on the way to placing 31st out of 182 finishers at the recent 12th annual Women's Triathlon Milton at Kelso Conservation Area. At left, Lesley Grice of Georgetown gives a big thumbs up after winning the Sprint Triathlon (750m swim, 20km bike, 5km run) for a fourth straight year — topping the 105-race field in 1:12:31. Below, Terra Cotta's Jennifer Lusby completes the swim portion of the Sprint Triathlon en route to finishing 27th. The top local finisher overall was Kristin McLroy, who took third in the Super Sprint Triathlon in 43:20. Fellow Miltonian Jackie Smalec and Lisa Brown of Campbellville were close behind in sixth and eighth respectively.

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