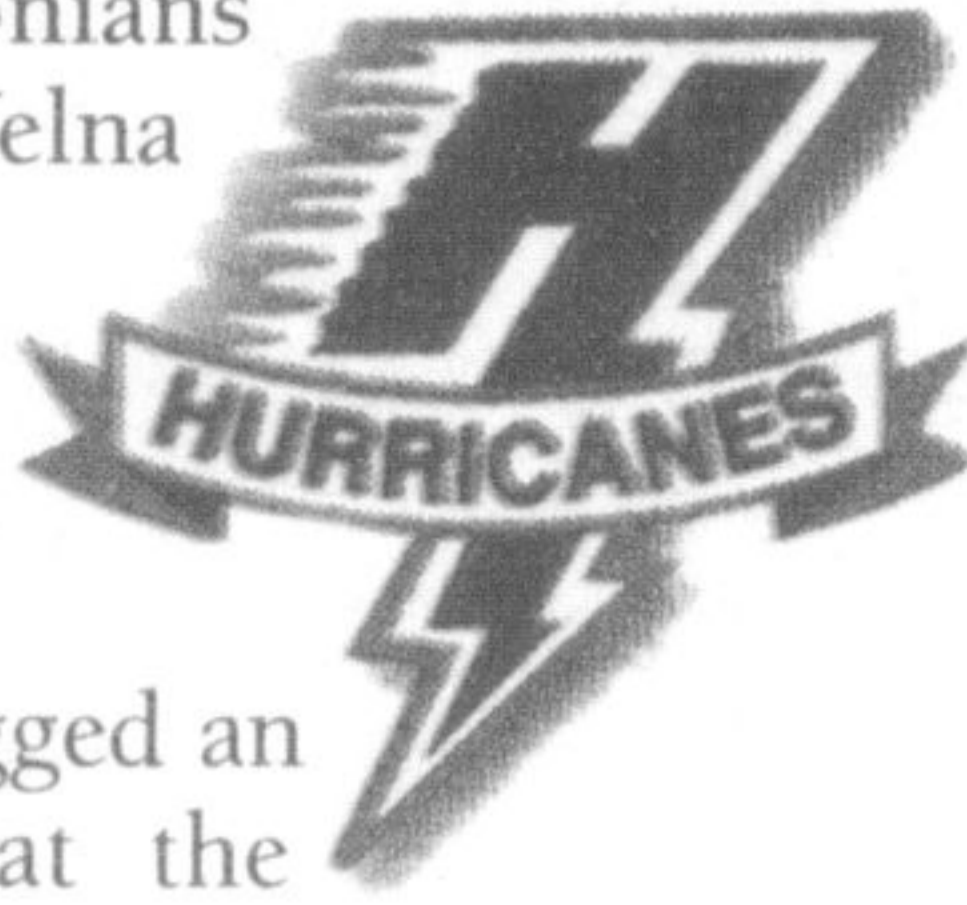


Hurricanes snap skid

The midget Hurricanes brought their early-season skid to an end at Memorial Arena Saturday afternoon — thanks in no small part to a local trio.

Ryan Williams was nothing short of brilliant between the pipes, while fellow Miltonians Brayden Abraham and Matt Welna scored shorthanded goals just 19 seconds apart in the first period and were instrumental in killing off several other penalties.



As a result, the Hurricanes snagged an early lead and hung on to beat the Hamilton Bulldogs 4-2 for their first league win after opening the season with four straight losses.

Welna put Halton ahead 2-0 on a point-blank shot midway through the first, while Abraham caught the Bulldogs' goalie out of position just moments later and fired a lengthy wrister that found its way through a sea of bodies to cushion the hosts' lead.

At the opposite end, Williams was especially effective when challenged down low and made at least a handful of spectacular saves through the early going to keep Hamilton snipers at bay.

The second goal against him came on a second-period two-man advantage. Otherwise the Hurricanes — Abraham and Welna in particular — were exceptional on the penalty kill.

Halton's midgets include six Milton-area players this season, with the other three all sidelined Saturday. Dane Horvat and James Woodcroft were serving suspensions, while Scott Stover continued to nurse a broken finger.

Memorable pro debuts for locals

A couple of 22-year-old Miltonians made their professional hockey debuts last week — and both had more than just participatory roles in their teams' victories.

Now playing back-up with the Central Hockey League's Wichita Thunder — coached by fellow Milton native Mark French — Dan Giffin made his first start one to remember.

With Wichita outplayed for much of Saturday night's clash with the host Tulsa Oilers, the former Canisius College goaltender proved to be the difference — turning back 29 of 31 shots to pull out a 4-2 win.

Giffin was particularly effective in the second period — with a dozen straight saves — while both goals against him came on the powerplay, the first on a two-man advantage.

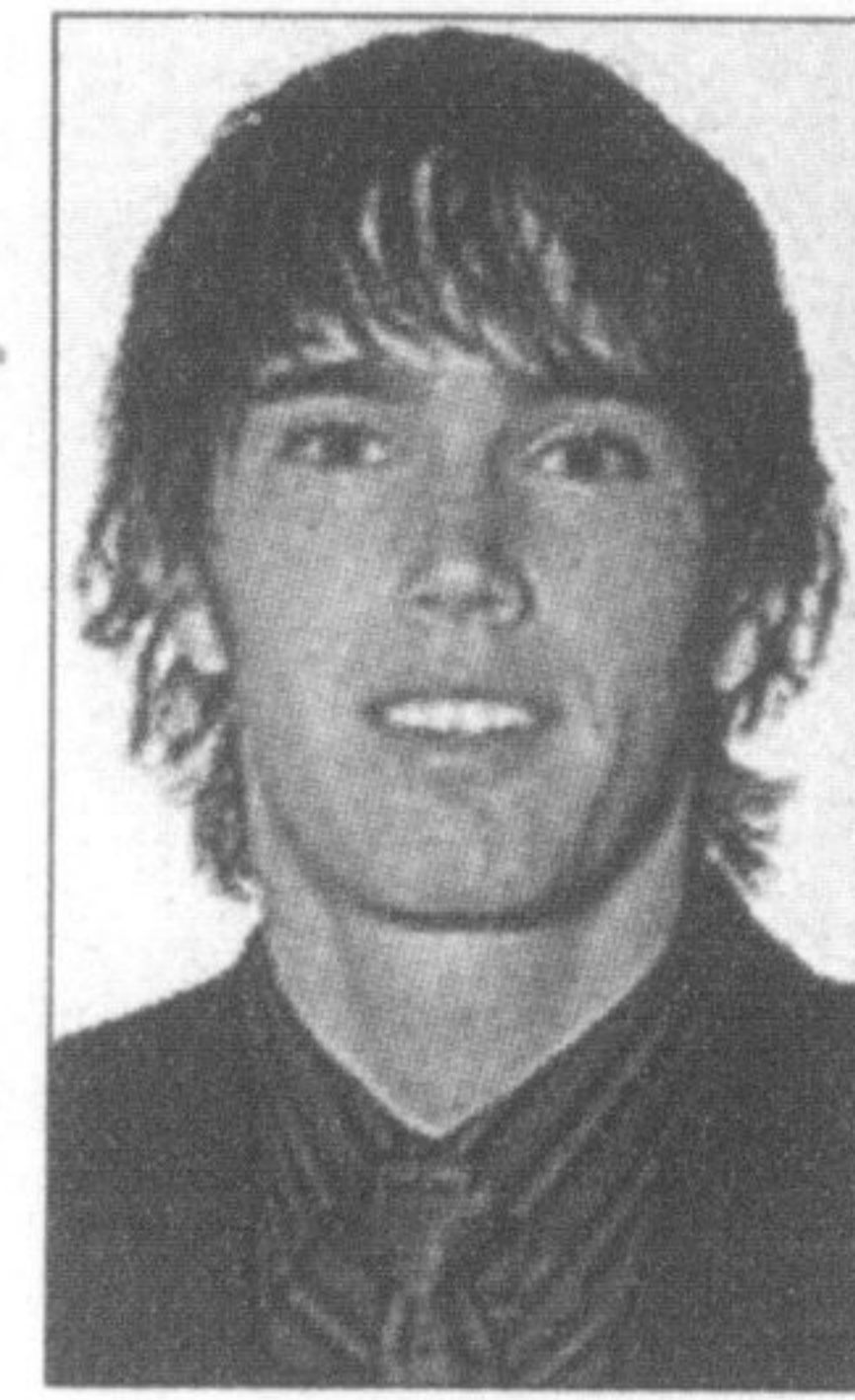
The victory lifted the Thunder to 3-1 on the year.

Meanwhile, Jon Gleed finally made it into the Hamilton Bulldogs' lineup Wednesday evening at Copps Coliseum, and enjoyed a rather memorable introduction to the American Hockey League.

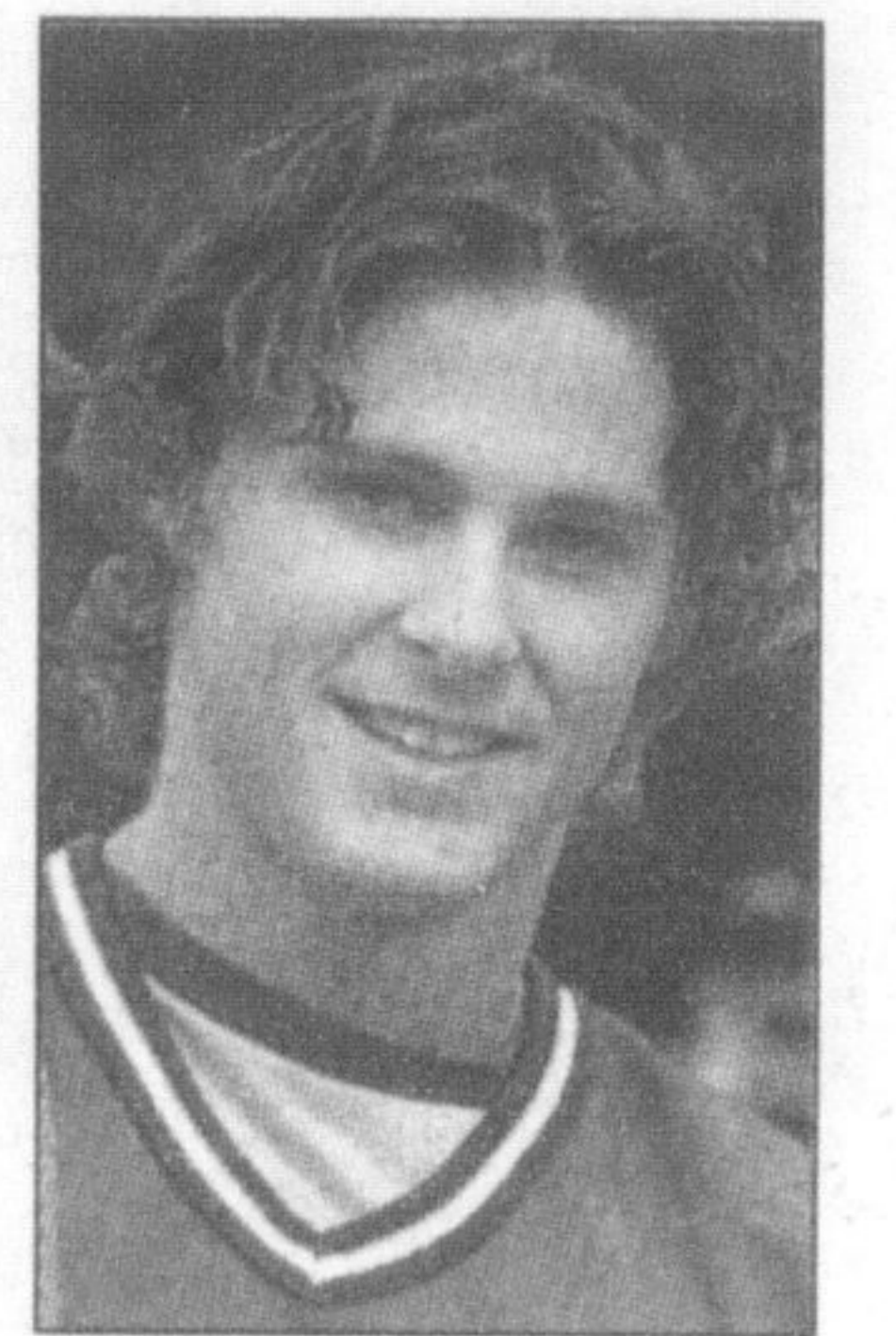
Squaring off against the provincial

rival Toronto Marlies, the six-foot-two-inch, 215-pound defenceman assisted on Ajay Baines' first-period equalizer and was on the ice for two more Hamilton goals before intermission to finish at a plus-3. His efforts helped the Bulldogs prevail 6-4 — only their second win of the season.

The Cornell University graduate and seventh-round pick of the Montreal Canadiens dressed again Saturday night in San Antonio, where Hamilton fell 5-3 and dropped to 2-6.



Dan Giffin



Jon Gleed

IceHawks drop two of three over weekend

The IceHawks broke out of their offensive funk — but not for long.

Kicking off a three-games-in-46-hours stretch in encouraging fashion, Milton jumped out to an early lead and went on to edge the Streetsville Derbys 4-3 — just their fifth win this season.

Seeing the majority of ice time these days, young netminder Vince Cusick earned his fourth victory this year, while Dylan MacEachern scored two goals, including the game winner early in the third. Also lighting the lamp were Allen Petretic and David Vallorani.

Unfortunately, the IceHawks couldn't build on the effort and dropped 7-1 and 5-1 decisions in Brampton and Streetsville Saturday night and Sunday afternoon respectively.

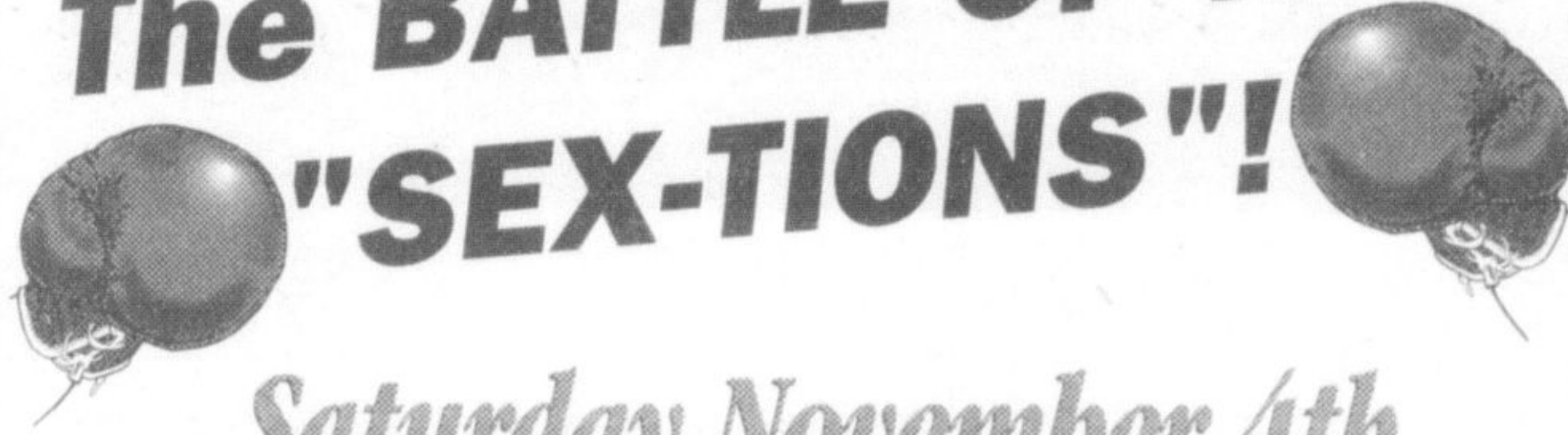
The rebuilding juniors have now been held to a goal or less in seven of their last 10 games.

Dylan MacEachern notched his third of the weekend against the top-seated Capitals, while Aaron Mirsky was the lone marksman in Streetsville.

Now 5-14-3-1, Milton has just one game on slate this weekend — Friday night's home-ice clash with Buffalo.

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Halton Senior Boys Volleyball North Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PT
Georgetown	7	6	1	12
Acton	7	6	1	12
Christ the King	7	4	2	8
Bishop Reding	7	2	5	4
E.C. Drury	8	0	8	0

Halton Junior Boys Volleyball North Division Standings

Team	GP	W	L	PT
Georgetown	7	7	0	14
Christ the King	7	5	2	10
Bishop Reding	7	3	4	6
Acton	7	2	5	4
Milton District	8	1	7	2

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