

SPORTS

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AE2 atoms on the ropes in OMHA semis

Facing elimination tonight against powerhouse Whitby

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The glass slipper appears ready to fall on the AE2 atoms' Cinderella season.

The team that nearly didn't get off the ground at all this year, due to an initial lack of players, now finds itself facing a quick elimination from the best-of-five OMHA semifinals.

Representing Milton's last remaining hope for a 2006/07 championship, they're now poised to be swept by the additional entry powerhouse Whitby Wildcats — unbeaten in both regular season and playoff action — following back-to-back weekend losses at Milton Sports Centre.



Despite momentum from their improbable quarterfinal sweep of Belle River, Milton struggled offensively through the early going of both games and didn't get on the scoreboard until the third.

The two contests — ending in 5-2 and 6-1 Whitby wins — played out in similar fashion, with the visitors establishing an insurmountable lead in the second period after a rather evenly-matched opening frame.

The middle stanza was particularly damaging to the Winterhawks during Saturday evening's series opener, with four goals against on 17 shots wiping out any realistic shot at victory.

Top guns Brenden Calvert-Day and Jesse MacDonald scored three-and-a-half minutes apart in the third — netting their 16th and 10th playoff goals respectively — to temporarily turn the tide. However, with a fundamentally-sound opponent sporting three extra players and still up by three goals, a comeback just wasn't in the cards.

The same held true the following day, when MacDonald beat Whitby's goalie with a lengthy bottom-shelf wrister four-and-a-half minutes into the third. The Wildcats already had a 5-0 hammerlock at the time, and added one more for good measure down the stretch.

While holding its own through some extended stretches last weekend, Milton had all sorts of trouble finding room to maneuver against a positionally rock-solid Whitby squad.

Calvert-Day assisted on both MacDonald goals and now has 27 points in 11 post-season games.

Whitby hosts games three and four tonight and tomorrow afternoon. Should the Winterhawks fend off elimination twice, a fifth and deciding game will be played at MSC Sunday at 4:30 p.m.



GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

NETTING ONE — SORT OF: Winterhawk Colin Moffat ends up in the net himself as Whitby goalie Sean Green makes the save on the play during game two action at Milton Sports Centre Sunday afternoon.

Paguaga set for Trillium Starskate

Kendra Paguaga will be taking her on-ice skills to the provincial stage this weekend.

The 15-year-old will be Milton Skating Club's lone representative tomorrow in Waterloo, when she begins the Trillium Starskate Championship (formerly the all-Ontarios).

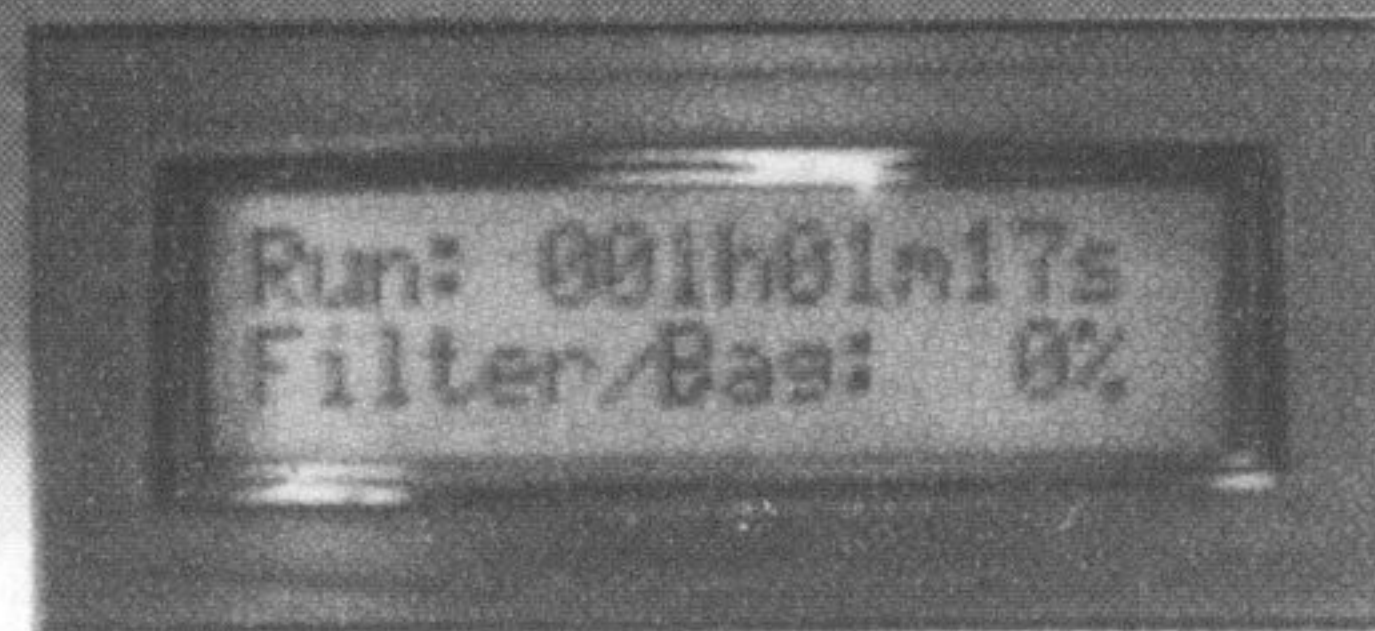
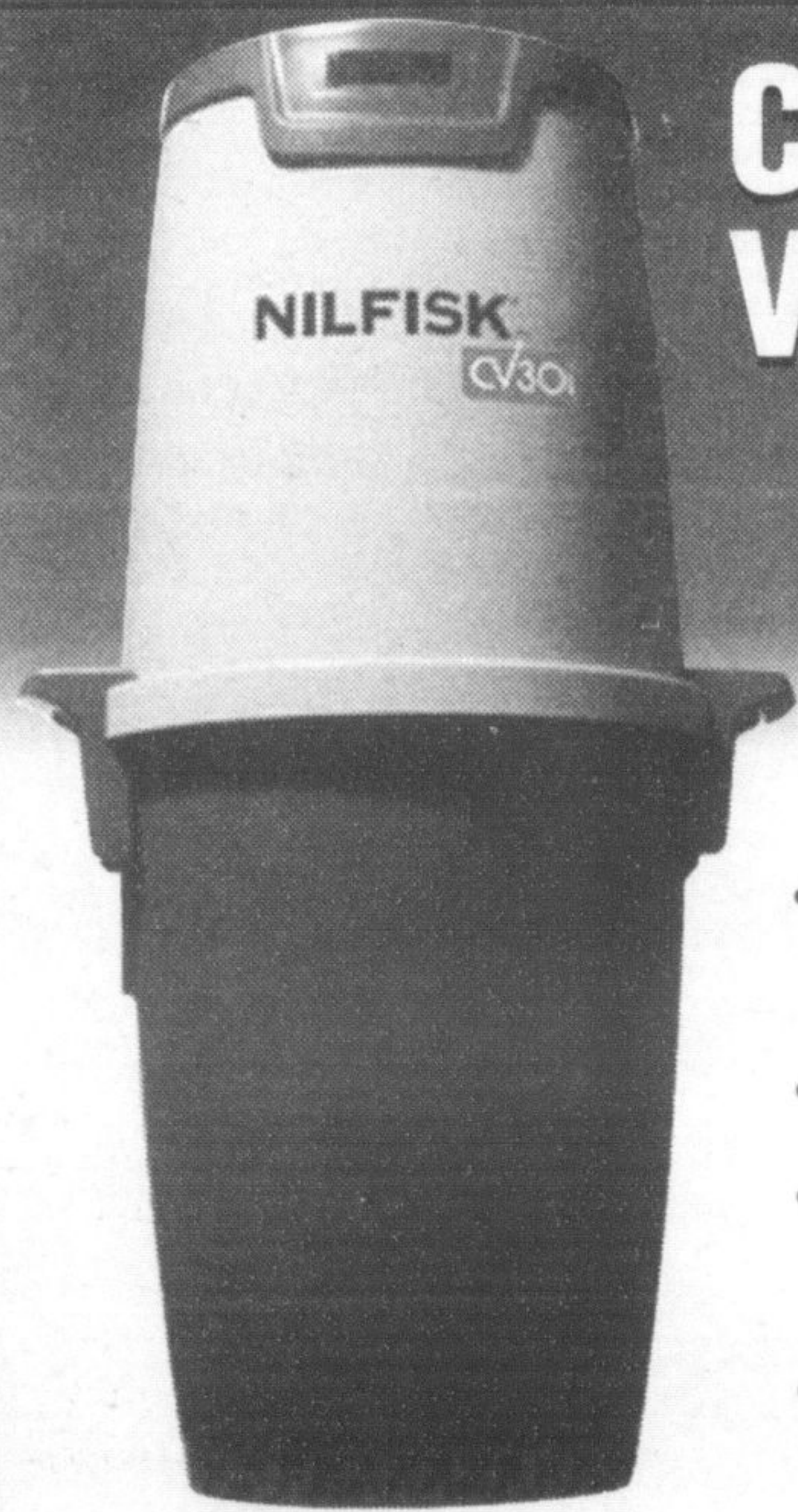
The seasoned skater advanced to this weekend's showcase with a bronze-medal performance at the Central Ontario Starskate Championships in Brampton — taking top honours in her senior bronze ladies flight before placing third overall.

Falling heartbreakingly close to joining her at Trillium

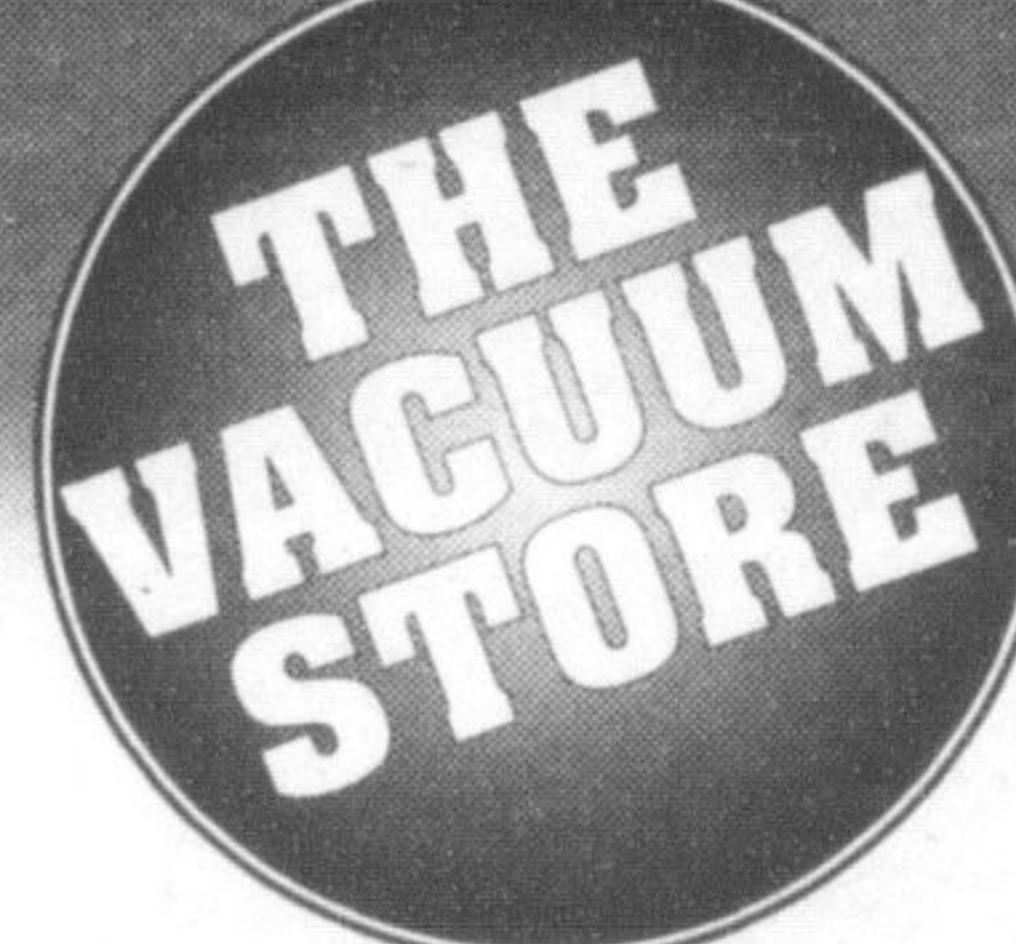
was pre-preliminary ladies competitor Hayleigh Bell, who missed the cut by just one spot with an all-around fourth. Colleen Collins placed ninth in the same division, while both took second in their respective flights.

Also representing the local club at COSC were: Athena Zorzi (5th in flight in preliminary ladies), Emily Williams (6th in flight in preliminary ladies), Kaitlyn Bell (6th in flight in preliminary ladies), Lindsay Mindenhall (12th in flight in preliminary ladies), Madelyn Dunley (8th in flight in junior bronze ladies) and Victoria Smith (10th in flight in junior bronze ladies).

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