

Winning weekend keeps IceHawks unbeaten at home

Lopsided IceHawks games could be in rather short supply this year. That is, if early results are any indication.

Remove a season-opening empty netter from the equation, and all four Milton contests thus far — three of them wins — have been decided by the narrowest of margins.

That trend continued at Memorial Arena Sunday afternoon, with the hosts eclipsing the Buffalo Jr. Sabres 6-5 in the league's third shoot-out of 2008/09.

Rookie Ricky Buehler sank the only goal among a combined eight shooters, beating Derek Mohney with a top left corner snap.

Sharing in the heroics, Steve Zoffranieri turned aside three straight shots — the last a Ryan Stouffer backhand — after getting a little help from the right post.

This represented a measure of redemption for the IceHawks, as they surrendered their third lead of the game with a mere 5.6 seconds left in regulation.

A rather chippy affair saw the cross-border opponents amass 90 minutes in penalties — much of that collected during a pair of first-period fights — but deliver very little in the way of intensity or defensive prowess.

Justin Basso collected four helpers for the IceHawks, while Ryan Stroz also stood out with a goal and an assist.

Milton wouldn't come away from its latest victory completely unscathed, however, as veteran winger Kevin Caister left in the second period with an undisclosed upper-body injury.

The IceHawks kicked off a three-game home stand by edging the

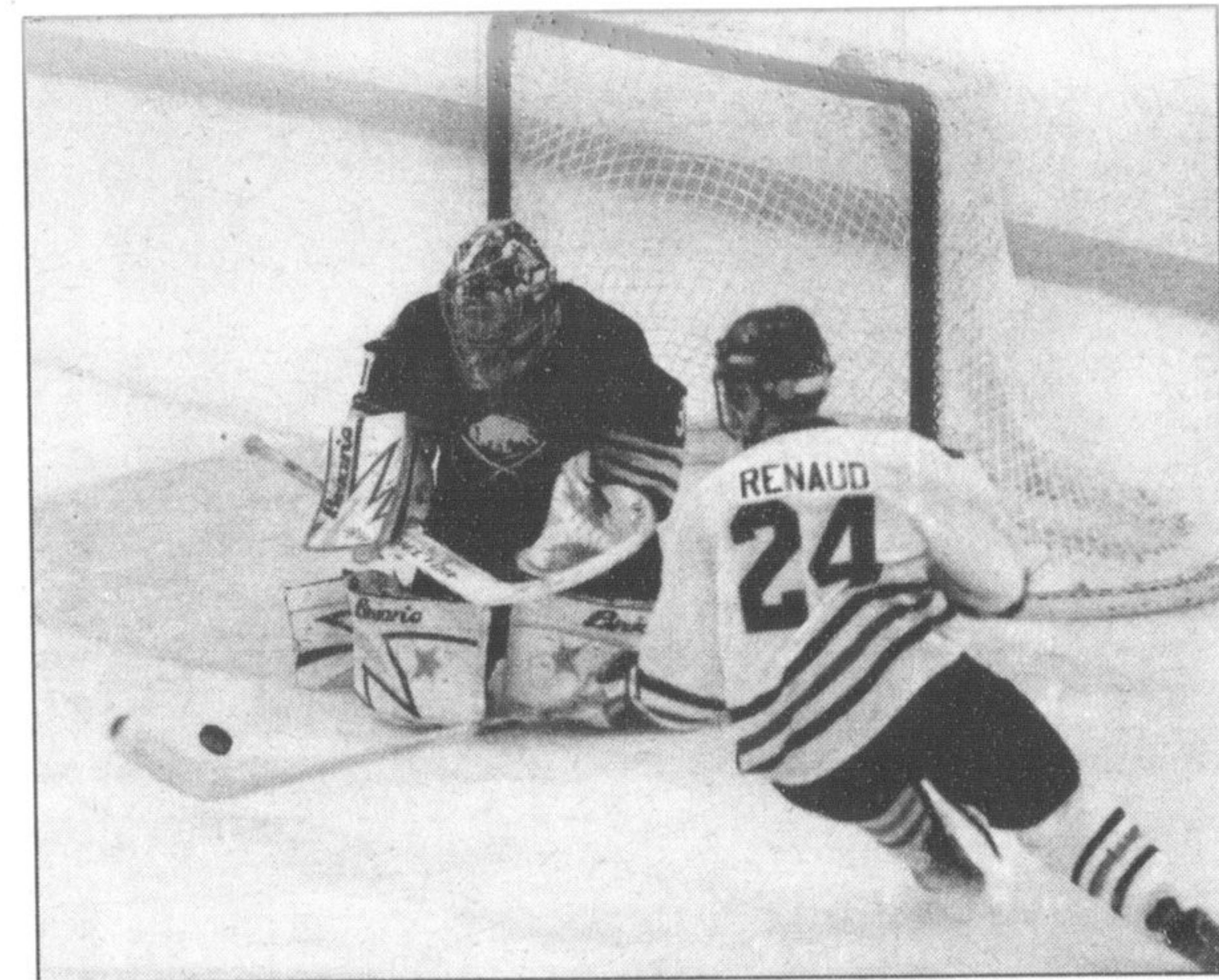
Streetsville Derbys 4-3 Friday night.

Returning from a concussion suffered in the first exhibition game, seasoned newcomer Ari Lifschutz marked his debut with a pair of second-period goals to put Milton ahead to stay.

Tyler Stothers had three assists, while Zoffranieri turned back 48 shots for the win.

Second-year Derby Dane Horvat factored into all the scoring against his hometown club, with second and third-period goals and an assist on Streetsville's initial tally.

Milton welcomes Buffalo back to Memorial Friday (7:30 p.m.) and then heads to Bowmanville for its Governors Showcase (formerly College Weekend) contest. It's set for Saturday at 8 p.m. against 0-4 Villanova of the Phillips Division (formerly the North).



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DENIED: IceHawk Curtis Renaud gets turned back by Buffalo goalie Derek Mohney Sunday at Memorial Arena.

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