

Reding racer also qualifies

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championships in Sarnia this Saturday. Joining Gabel at the provincial high school meet will be Bishop Reding's Connor LeDrew, who placed fifth (in 19:14) in the midget boys' race — edging Burlington's Kurt McClure by three seconds for the final individual qualifying berth.

Milton District's Jen Wormald was 14th in the midget girls' race and Drury's Robert Green was 17th among the midget boys.

Just back from a broken collarbone and far off last year's OFSAA qualifying mark, Scott Dermott of BR placed 21st in the senior boys' race.

Winning weekend moves 'Hawks into 5th

Capitalize on Mississauga's discipline breakdown for big home-ice victory

By Steve LeBlanc

CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

As the league's most penalized team so far this season, the IceHawks haven't had too many nights in which they've been more disciplined than the opposition.

Friday marked one of those rare occasions — and the payoff was unmistakable.

Showing far more restraint than the Mississauga Chargers over the final two periods, Milton scored four powerplay goals in just over seven minutes — three of them on two-man advantages — on the way to an 8-2 rout.

Granted the lopsided victory did come against the MacKinnon Division's basement dwellers, who boast little in the way of defensive prowess.

But given the fact that the IceHawks had dropped five straight home games and the Chargers had been showing signs

of improvement since problematic star Bruce Crawford has been out waiting for a trade, Friday could certainly be looked upon as a building block performance.

"It's good for the community (to win again at home)," said captain Ari Lifschutz, who assisted on four goals before dropping the gloves in a heavyweight tilt with Mississauga's Kyle Croxall midway through the third. "We'd been struggling at home lately, so hopefully with a good streak of games coming up we can start winning some."

Added Curtis Renaud, "This is a pretty big win for us. We had some trouble with discipline early on, but once we pulled back and they kept taking penalties we really started rolling."

With absolutely no composure over the latter half of the evening — after erasing a pair of Milton

leads — Mississauga afforded its hosts more than a dozen powerplays when the game was still up for grabs, and 19 overall.

While two shorthanded tallies and a perfect 10-for-10 penalty kill wasn't exactly a deterrent for staying out of the box themselves, the IceHawks realize they won't be able to dodge that kind of bullet against too many teams.

"That's something we've talked about," said Lifschutz. "There are some good penalties, but ones in the offensive zone or behind the play aren't acceptable."

Friday was especially sweet for the IceHawks' New York captain, who'd been held off the score-sheet at Memorial Arena for over a month and went into the weekend with just one multi-point game this year.

He said, "Yeah I'd been in a bit of a slump, and with (Ricky)

Buehler and (Adam) Piatt going down tonight it's good that the whole team was going."

Native Miltonian Jeff Lynch tallied twice in the final frame for his first multi-goal game in Tier 2 Jr. A, while Mac Whalen — back from injury — enjoyed the biggest slice of the scoring pie, with a goal and three helpers.

Renaud and Dean Kulla had a goal and an assist each.

An 0-for-11 powerplay white-wash couldn't keep the IceHawks from claiming their third straight win the following night in Vaughan.

Renaud delivered the club's first hat-trick of the year — including two shorthanded markers — while Dillon Branco turned back 40 shots to nip the Vipers 4-3.

Renaud potted the eventual game winner 26 seconds into the third period, after sinking a buzzer beater right before second intermission. He also assisted on the first goal, with his prosperous night lifting him into a tie with Justin Basso for the club's points lead (21 each).

Ryan Stroz contributed a goal and an assist to the win, which bumped Milton into a tie for fifth with Brampton.

Now 9-7-2, the IceHawks continue a three-game road trip Friday at Brampton's Powerade Centre against Bramalea. Saturday they travel to Mississauga before returning to Memorial Sunday for a 3:30 p.m. clash with the Phillips Division's Collingwood Blues.

Jr. Mustangs battle to tie with Wildcats

Unable to add to an early touchdown, scored on a 65-yard punt return by Tyler Smith in the first few minutes, the junior Mustangs had to settle for a 7-7 tie with the White Oaks Wildcats Thursday.

This had them sitting at 2-1-1 in Division 2 heading into yesterday


afternoon's home-field clash with top-seated Georgetown — a game that will essentially decide Milton District's playoff seeding.

Ben Miller had another punt return major called back, while he and quarterback Darren Prong were the only real bright spots on

the day — which was marred by fumbles and dropped balls.

The Wildcats didn't need long to even things up, and from there the teams both struggled through a scoreless second half.

MD wraps up the regular-season Friday at Iroquois Ridge.



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