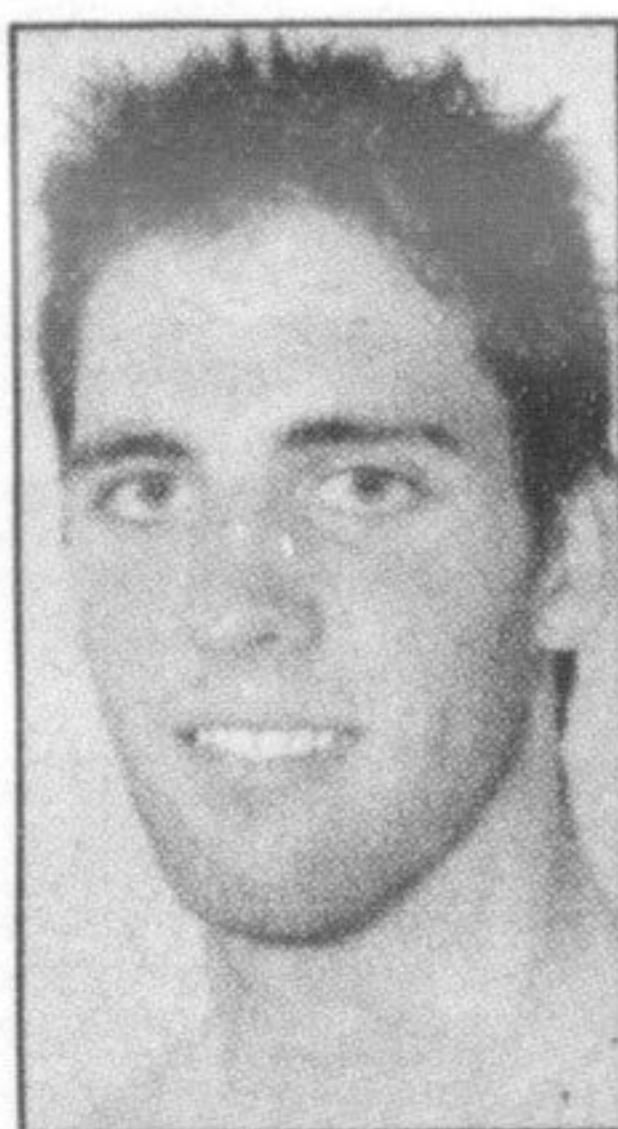


A fresh start for Brittain

Veteran OHL winger traded to Plymouth

Josh Brittain is now playing for his third OHL team in less than a year, and didn't need long to make an impact with his new club.

Traded to the Plymouth Whalers Friday for a pair of high draft picks, the 19-year-old left winger scored the game winner and finished at a plus-4 in Saturday's 6-1 home-ice rout of the Belleville Bulls.



Josh Brittain

While certainly happy to score in his first weekend with the Whalers, Brittain is even more pleased to be getting a fresh start after struggling for ice time with the offensively-deep Barrie Colts.

"I'm not really sure why (I wasn't getting much ice time). It's not like I was playing bad. It was getting frustrating," noted the six-foot-four-inch, 210-pounder, who had three goals and five assists in 12 games this year with Barrie. "I'm actually really happy to be here in Plymouth. I'm still with a contender and this is a great, close-knit group of guys."

Saturday marked the 70th goal as an OHLer (including one in play-offs) for Brittain, a third-round draft pick of the Anaheim Ducks in 2008.



A STEP AHEAD: Hurricane Matt Dupont closes in on Hamilton's net as defenceman Bradley Col plays catch-up at Milton Sports Centre Saturday.

GRAHAM PAINE / CANADIAN CHAMPION

Hurricanes downed by 'Dogs

An early surge and solid penalty killing weren't quite enough for the midget Hurricanes Saturday afternoon, as they were toppled 5-3 by the formidable Hamilton Jr. Bulldogs at Milton Sports Centre.

Sporting nine Milton-area players this season (the most in recent memory) but without the services of suspended playmaker Brandon Denham, the Hurricanes simply couldn't build on the momentum of scoring three times inside a minute-and-a-half midway through the opening frame.

Andrew Bergman scored on two transition breaks just 44 seconds apart to erase a 2-0 Hamilton lead, while fellow Miltonian Spencer Abraham — a mobile defenceman

and part of a gifted hockey family — put the hosts ahead on a nifty rush.

From there, however, the Hurricanes struggled to put enough pressure on the Bulldogs' goalie and — without Denham — faltered on a handful of powerplays.

Drew Dutton assisted on the second goal, while he, Abraham and fellow local George Kopas delivered some sound penalty killing to keep hopes of victory alive.

Rounding out the midgets' Milton contingent are Colin Christie, Matt Dupont, Oran Ferguson and Dan Plater.

Now 2-4 in SCTA play, the Hurricanes will look to get back in the win column tonight, when they begin a three-game road trip in Brampton.

Real Royal christening

BR delivers back-to-back wins in debut on new field

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

Heading onto his school's new artificial turf field for the last time Friday, Michael Haringa knew he was capable of and prepared for the task at hand.

Just an hour-and-a-half earlier he'd booted a field goal of 37 yards — eight more than the one he was now asked to deliver in the Royals' last-ditch effort to christen their recently-completed digs in victory.

As the clock ticked down and a clutch three-point attempt became more and more likely,

the first-year senior's thoughts travelled back to this past summer, when in the hopes of securing the wide-open kicker post he spent numerous hours honing his accuracy.

But for all those times he'd split the uprights, there was just no simulating the high-stakes pressure that awaited him on the drizzly, windy afternoon.

"I just thought 'I've got to make this,'" recalled the long-time soccer player, whose attempt came with a mere 12 seconds remaining and his Bishop Reding team trailing 14-12. "Yeah, I've never been in a situation like that before. It was pretty crazy."

That term could also describe the reaction he touched off after his pressure-packed kick found its way between the goal posts.

Just a few moments later — following a modest kick-off return and an incomplete pass by the Oakville Trafalgar Devils — the Royals were hoisting their hero aloft, with 'HA-RIN-GA' chants drowning out everything else.

• see BIG on page A24

HOME	00	GUESTS
15	00	14
BALL ON	DOWN	YDS TO GO
0	3	10
0	3	10

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