

## Flyers for sale

# An interesting proposal



Michael Boyle

**W**ITH TALK once again resurfacing on the possible sale of Milton Flyers, Dave DelPapa, who four years ago nearly bought the team has raised an idea which might be worth looking into.

Dave is familiar with a situation which happened in Peterborough several years ago when the Toronto-Peterborough-Transport company pulled out its sponsorship from the Major A team.

The town's politicians and sports representatives got together and decided to buy the team for the town. With operating costs running into the hundreds of thousands each year, the Petes, as they were renamed, were a major undertaking.

However, all one has to do is check the stats from Memorial Cup games or watch the standings in the Ontario Hockey League to see the junior team is one of the most competitive in the OHL. Taking into consideration that Peterborough is one of the smaller cities in the league, it is a credit to the team's organizers a competitive team is iced year after year.

"It would be quite an accomplishment for the town to own the team (Flyers)," says Del Papa. "It would be well worth the town's time to call the Peterboro team and find how they made out and how they're doing."

"People go to watch the games because it's part of the town. They don't have a like or dislike for the owner. It becomes a matter of civic pride to watch the junior team."

It's an interesting concept when one likens the similarities of Peterborough with Milton, although on a much smaller scale.

Milton is a hockey town. Of all the sports which draws attention in this community, hockey is and probably always will be number one.

Fan support at Flyers' games have dropped off over the past few years to the ardent followers and kids. It doesn't have the attraction it once had when Brown Street arena was the focus of the sport.

Hockey attracts people of all sorts, whether they're new to the town or not. It is certainly a good way to get new residents involved quickly into the town.

Certainly no one would expect the town to lose money on a continuing basis. However, if the right people in town were available to handle the team, it might become the attraction it once was and at a break-even level.

It certainly is an interesting idea, something which a phone call might enlighten.

Speaking of teams with a change of ownership on their minds, Milton Aeros (or rather Miltonwe Realty Aeros) got off to a flying start Friday night when new owner Gary Thomas, of the realty firm, held Milton Minor Hockey Night at Milton Sports Centre.

Thomas has injected some much needed life into the club which nearly collapsed during the summer.

Perhaps it's time for the town to show its appreciation to saving one calibre of hockey and come out to support the club. Thomas is not going to make any money and will have to pull a few strings so that he won't lose too much.

The Milton Industrial Hockey League could offer some assistance in the way of players for a temporary basis anyway. As things stand now, any player in the MIHL who signs an OHA card cannot play for his MIHL team for the rest of the year and goes into the draft, if he wants to return, for the coming year.

The league might want to look into the possibility of allowing players to have three or five-game trials with Aeros without any loss of status for this year or next.

Or maybe, allowing players to finish out the year with Aeros and return to their former team the next year.

It's food for thought.

## MAC swimmers dynamite top first competitive meet

A happy Carol Murray beamed from ear-to-ear as her first-year Milton Aquatic Club claimed first place overall in their first competitive swim meet of the season.

Mrs. Murray's troops, with just two months to prepare, grabbed the title over clubs from Hamilton, Burlington, Dundas and Oakville in a novice meet Sunday at Hamilton.

Complete results had not yet been posted but two swimmers came home with four first-place finishes and three relay teams were either first or second.

Ten-year-old Carrie Powers and Hugh Silk, 13, won four events while Dana Harrison was first in three events and second in two races.

Other strong placings were from: Jay Jay Van Riet Paap with two firsts, two seconds and a third; Dave Wessinger with a first, a second and a third; and Kevin Bates with four thirds.

The results of the other swimmers who placed

are as follows: Bradley Frenette, a second and a third; Joanne Hopkins, a third; Katie Billingsley, two thirds; Andrew Smith, one third; Christine Irwin, a second and two thirds; Suzanne Dancocks, a second; and Paul Crowe a third.

In addition, the girls' 10-and-under relay team of Trista Van Riet Paap, Harrison, Billingsley and Powers and the boys' 10-and-under relay team of Wessinger, Powers, Van Riet Paap and Bates were both either first or second.

The same holds true for the 14-and-under girls' relay team of Barbara Silk, Jennifer Powers, Irwin and Dancocks.

The club is holding an open house tomorrow (Thursday) at 6.30 p.m. at Drury School for all interested parties.

Anyone interested in registering for the competitive or pre-competitive groups of the MAC is asked to contact Mrs. Murray through the Dept. of Parks and Recreation at town hall.

## Flyers make more news with off-ice activities

By MICHAEL BOYLE  
Champion Sports Editor

Milton Flyers have been creating more news off the ice than on.

Consider these incidents which have occurred over the past couple of weeks.

Rumors have re-circulated that the team is for sale. Owner Beth Gooding says she is willing to sell the club tomorrow if someone makes the right offer.

Flyers' protest of a defeat to Oakville Blades was upheld by the OHA Board of Directors which, if the decision stands, would be the lone blemish in Oakville's winning season.

So many players have left the team in the past week, Flyers took just 12 skaters and one goaltender to Brampton Saturday. When the goalie was ejected, captain Bill Lynch donned the pads and played the final two minutes in goal.

Flyers lost 5-3 at home to the previous occupants of the cellar, Dixie, at home Friday night, and now have it all to themselves.

Flyers two representatives on an all-star team don't play for the club anymore.

Going back to the first point, rumors have been travelling about for about a month now that the Flyers are on the block.

Flyers' owners Vern and Beth Gooding say no concrete offer has been received although Beth acknowledged a verbal offer has been discussed.

Several people associated with Milton Minor Hockey, but not speaking on behalf of MMHA, have indicated they are interested in purchasing the team. But they asked their names not be used until something breaks.

"I've not received any written offers," explained Beth. "But we're interested in selling the team. If they come to us with an offer then yes we'd consider it."

"It seems to be getting too much. We're a little tired and weary."

A price for the team has not been named but sources indicate a purchase price above \$10,000 would be in line.

On the second point, Oakville manager Murray Walker says he will appeal an OHA decision which led to an overturning of a 10-1 win into a 1-0 defeat.

"I intend on appealing the decision as soon as possible," explained Walker. "I feel it's an attempt to discredit me and not the team."

The problem concerns a little-known player by the name of Chris MacRae who was playing Junior C hockey in Little Britain. Blades worked out a deal whereby MacRae would be given a five-game trial with Blades.

Walker signed the player to an Oakville card, took it to the OHA, put his name in the line-up and in the program. The player became eligible when he was to obtain his release and it was in the hands of the OHA.

The release didn't come until after MacRae played against Flyers therefore making him ineligible. Flyers noted the miscue and quickly lodged a protest.

"The rule states that anyone knowingly making false representation should be penalized," added Walker. "I'll make my appeal on that basis."

"I feel it was an error in judgment and a technicality. The person in Little Britain simply didn't get around to doing it."

"I have nothing to hide. We took his card to the OHA. We put his name in the program and on the game sheet. If I was going to sneak in a ringer, I certainly wouldn't have done that."

"I'm aware some teams have used players who aren't listed on the scoresheet. That's the way some teams bring in a ringer. I certainly wouldn't have brought in a ringer to play Milton."

MacRae was not a dominant factor in the game and the decision of the appeal is expected around Christmas.

Thirdly, Flyers lost goalie Derrick Neelands when the net-minder had words with owner Vern Gooding between the second and third periods Friday night. Neelands broke his goal stick over the net after allowing a soft goal and when he came off the ice, Vern told him if he was to break his sticks in that way he could buy his own.

The two got into an argument and Neelands left and watched the rest of the game from the stands.

Coupled with the leaving of Steve Eichmeier, Kent Nixon and Joe Sime for various reasons, Flyers were left with just 13 players for its game with Brampton.

That has been partially rectified with the addition of two players from Burlington who were obtained in a trade for goalie Mike Shepherd.

Fourthly, the western division of the Central Ont. Jr. B League (i.e. all teams west of Hwy. 10) named an all-star team to compete in a tournament in Kitchener during the Christmas holiday period.

All teams are to have representation. Milton's reps—Joey Gaeton and Mike Shepherd who both now play for Burlington.

Flyers dropped two games last week. Dixie scored four second-period goals and then held Flyers off the scoresheet in the final frame to win 5-3 Friday before Brampton scored a 6-1 win Saturday.

# Champion Sports

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

MILTON, ONTARIO

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1981

THIRD SECTION



Aero's defenceman Ed Hoizingh takes out a Rockton player laar. Rockton upped its record to 13-1 with a 10-5 victory before skating through the crease in front of Aero goalie John Muize- about 500 during Milton Minor Hockey Night.

## Ex-Aeros steal show in successful 'opening'

The largest non-playoff crowd in two years watched Miltonwe Realty Aeros suffer a 10-5 defeat to Rockton Real McCoys in Milton Minor Hockey Night Friday at Milton Sports Centre.

It was a disappointing result from an otherwise successful night as new owner Gary Thomas's promotional skills drew about 500 spectators for the contest.

Ironically, it was a couple of ex-Aeros who stole the spotlight. Defenceman Doug Schoenfeld, a member from last year's club which knocked off Rockton in the first round of playoffs, scored three goals. Former Aeros' coach Barrie Elliott was behind Rockton's bench and extracted a certain degree of satisfaction beating Aeros for a couple of reasons (Milton's playoff win last year and the fact he wasn't required to coach the club two years ago).

National Hockey League referee Bruce Hood dropped the puck for the opening face-off with a player from Milton Minor Hockey, Glen Thomas, and watched the game.

Gary Thomas distributed two dozen free hockey sticks to minor hockey players in a special draw and also gave out two team sweaters. The uniforms were donated courtesy Canadian Sports Distribution Ltd. One was a likeness to Edmonton Oilers' Wayne Gretzky while the other was similar to Toronto Maple Leafs' Darryl Sittler.

It marked one of the largest crowds to ever watch a regular-season intermediate game in Milton although much of the reason was through the free tickets.

Unfortunately, the club couldn't put the icing on the cake with a victory. However at 13-1, Rockton does not lose many games and has dropped just five regular-season contests in the past two seasons.

Rockton jumped out to a quick 4-0 lead after the teams had played nearly 14 minutes of scoreless hockey. Although shots on goal weren't recorded, Aeros goalie John Muizeaar dominated the first 15 minutes when Rockton had several good scoring chances.

The dam broke with six minutes to play when Schoenfeld's shot from the point found its way through a maze of players and into the net.

Aeros closed the gap to 4-1 five minutes into the second period but Rockton replied with a pair of goals before the period was out and coasted to the comfortable win.

It is apparent the team's weakness is on the blue line. Offensive players Barry Trood, Glen Murray and Paul McCann were placed on the blue line for most of the game. It was obvious they were confused in their own zone and their scoring talents were wasted on defence.

The club was missing Bill Bryant, a defenceman, and centreman Archie Chase, the club's leading scorer.

Aeros ran into difficulties playing ineligible players when both Lorne Lesuk and Denis Longpre, who were suspended because of an altercation in the previous game, suited up. Longpre took himself out of the game just five minutes into the opening period but Lesuk played the entire game. The OHA usually doubles the suspension.

Doug Fry, easily the best player on the ice, Brad Buchanan, Tom Butt, Glen Murray and Bob Baker scored for Aeros.

It marked the team's second straight loss at home to a top-placed club. Aeros dropped an 8-6 decision to Dunnville Mudcats Tuesday at

Memorial Arena in a game which cost a Dunnville player a year suspension and possibility a lifetime suspension from the OHA.

Mudcat defenceman Jack McSorley was been kicked out of the OHA for at least this season when he took a golf swing with his stick which struck Aeros' Steve Cloutier on the chin and mouth area while Cloutier was lying defenceless on the ice.

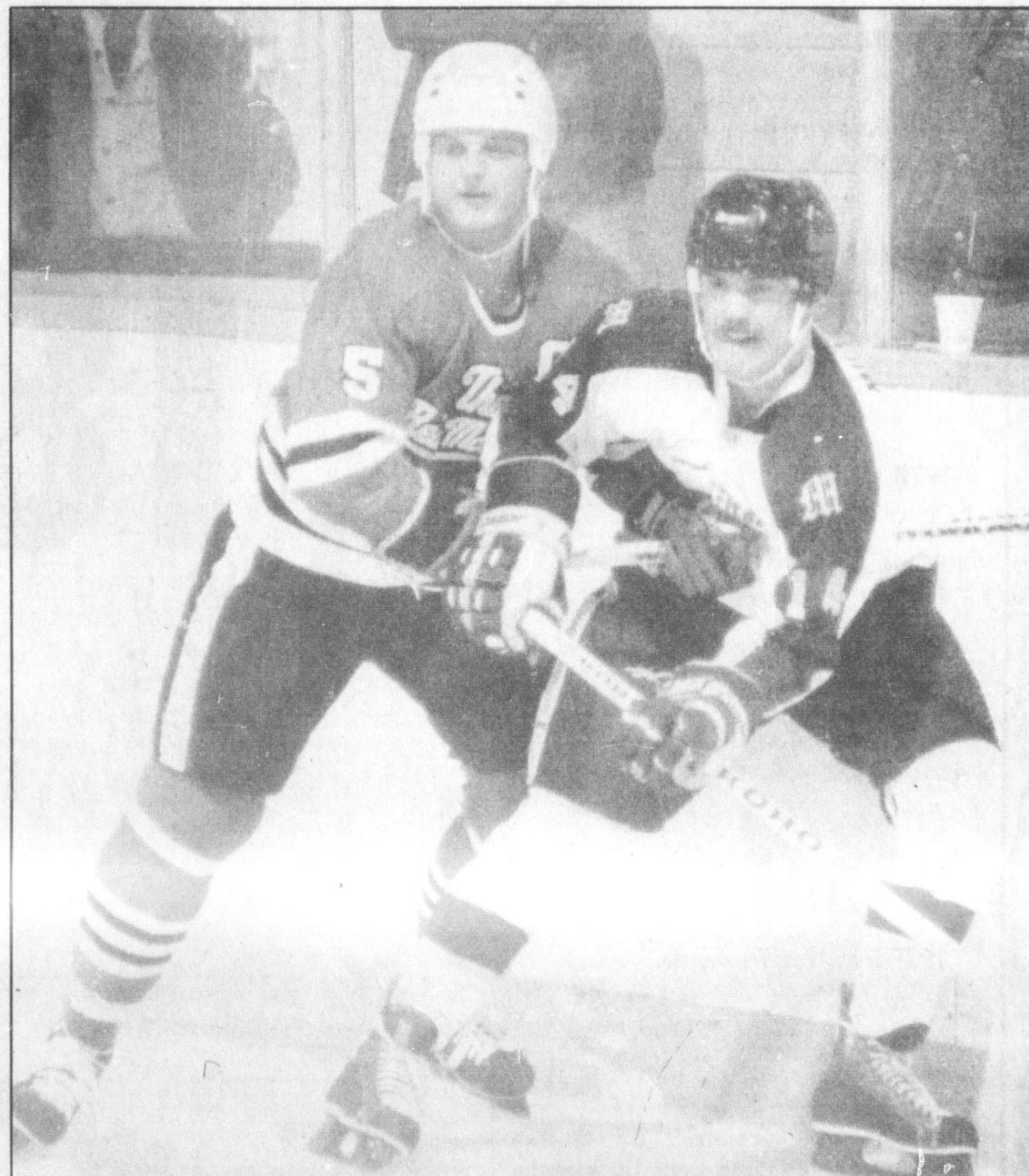
Cloutier lost a couple of teeth and needed five stitches to close the cut in one of the most brutal acts in any level of OHA play this season.

McSorley apparently went berserk after he was skated into the boards roughly earlier in the game and lost four teeth. Later, with Cloutier lying in a prone position, he seized upon the opportunity to vent his anger.

In the scoring department, Aeros jumped out to a 4-1 first-period lead and seemed on their way to upsetting the second-placed team for the second time in a week. However, Mudcats regrouped and scored five unanswered goals in the middle frame to carry a two-goal lead into the third period. Aeros got to within one goal before Mudcats fired two quick markers to ice the victory.

Butt led Aeros' scorers with two goals while Paul McCann, Trood, Cloutier and Chase added singles. Chase, Cloutier and Ed Huizingh added two assists each.

Aeros played last night at home to Paris and don't play again until Tuesday Dec. 22 when the club hosts St. Mary's Flyers.



Two former teammates meet in the corner for opposing teams as Aeros' Doug Fry (right) and Rockton's Doug Schoenfeld (left) get tangled up. Schoenfeld had himself quite an evening in his first visit back to Milton this year with a three-goal effort.