

Controversy rages with Ching

In a game marred by controversy, Sargent Farms bantam AA reps' hopes of getting into provincial hockey playoffs were buried under a 6-2 loss Saturday at Chinguacousy. Farmers were outplayed in the lopsided contest, but Milton coach Barrie Elliott charged that Ching's suspended coach, Guy Bloor, was in communication with his assistants on the bench by walkie-talkie.

"I saw them talking back and forth," Elliott said. "I saw the coach with the walkie-talkie in the (overhead) booth talking on it. The guy on the bench hid his behind his back."

Bloor admitted possessing the devices and said an attempt at communication was made. But not by him. And, he said, the devices failed to work. "They were on one channel and we were on another." (See column Pg. B1).

Bloor was suspended for three games following the incident. Ontario Minor Hockey Association executive rep Ken Russell said he was suspended for his intent to use the devices, whether they functioned or not. At press time, it did not appear Elliott was going to protest the game.

"How much difference the devices made in the contest is an arguable point. But everyone, including the Milton coach, will admit that Sargent Farms would have had to come up with a far sharper effort in order to win."

"We were flat, just plain flat," Elliott admitted. "I couldn't believe what was happening. But the kids have come a long way. They've really improved. I'm really proud as hell of them."

"It (the loss) doesn't mean the kids weren't putting forth the effort. We had to win. A tie would beat us. Maybe we panicked. I don't know what happened. But in the series we had our chances. In two games we had leads late in the game and we lost them both."

"This team (Milton) through the year has always been a third-period club. But in this series when it got late they were getting us."

Milton went with three defencemen for the entire Ching series. They were handcuffed in that area because backliner Phil Pumphrey broke a wrist recently.

"And the type of hockey we played this year was pretty well defensive," Elliott added. "Once we got down it was hard to come back."

Milton had but one victory going in to the last two games of the series. Ching won the series opener 4-2, took game two 5-4 in overtime and dropped game three 3-2.

Ching scored in the last 21 seconds of the game to salvage a 3-3 tie last Wednesday.

Ching opened the scoring with a power-play goal in the first period but Doug Parkes put Milton on the board in the second, assisted by Doug Poulton. Ching came back to take the lead again but Milton drew even with 19 seconds remaining in the second as Matt McCandless scored, assisted by Poulton and Colin Grieve.

John Snow put Milton in the lead early in the third, assisted by Parks and Pat Penman, but with 21 seconds remaining in the game Ching scored from a face-off in the Milton zone.

Snow and Grieve scored for Milton, both in the third period, in the final game. Grieve assisted on Snow's goal while McCandless and Bryan Hariga assisted on Grieve's. It was 2-0 Ching after the first and 4-0 after the second.

G'town retires midgets

McCuaig Insurance minor midgets' hopes of winning a provincial title were abruptly dashed by rival Georgetown in Tri-County rep hockey playdowns last week.

McCuaig Insurance was shooting for the provincial AA title, despite having less players than any Milton rep team. To be bounced in Tri-County eliminations was not only abrupt - it was unexpected.

"We now drop back into Tri-County playdowns," Milton manager Gary Ellwood said. "It's like kissing your sister but we'll try and win it."

This season was probably the last chance at an OMHA title for most midget players, Ellwood said. Next year he believes most players will be

split between juvenile and Jr. B hockey.

Georgetown dispatched Milton 2-1 and 5-4 last week. In the second contest, two Milton goals in the last five minutes of play were disallowed.

"We have complimented the officials throughout the year but these two deserve our criticism," Ellwood said after the 5-4 loss Thursday in Georgetown.

Milton captain Wayne Rivers was suspended for a game after giving vent to his frustration with the officiating Thursday.

Scott Hilson scored Milton's only goal in their 2-1 loss Feb. 17 at Memorial Arena. Grant Thomson earned the assist.

Ellwood said Milton outplayed Georgetown Thursday, despite coming up short. Geoff Pollen scored twice for Milton, while Travis Cole and Scott Hilson had one each. Pollen collected two assists while Scott Ellwood and Thomson had an assist each. At press time, Milton awaited the announcement of a Tri-County playoff opponent.

A reps ready to go

Remax A bantam reps are keeping their hockey skills sharp with a series of exhibition games while they await Tri-County playoffs, and last week they proved they remembered how to perform under pressure. They remembered with a minute to go.

Brampton had a 1-0 lead with a minute to go in the game. Remax pulled their goalie, and Jeff Cross skated behind the net and passed to Jan Spagnuolo who slid the puck over to Mike Maltby. He beat the Brampton goalie with a low wrist shot to tie the game at 26 seconds remaining.

Milton will probably start their Tri-County playoff series this weekend.

Sockets lose this round

Georgetown claimed the latest round in the battle for first place with Milton novice AA Sockets by earning a 3-1 victory in a penalty-filled contest Thursday in Georgetown.

A total of 26 minutes were called in the hockey game. Georgetown opened the scoring with the lone goal of the first period. After a scoreless second period, Georgetown doubled its lead only to see Milton cut the margin in half with a goal from Kyle Martin with Jason McCall and Kevin Nascimben assisting.

A Georgetown tally with 25 seconds remaining in the contest sealed the win.

In exhibition action on the weekend, Sockets played their best hockey in the past six weeks turning back Cambridge Hawks 3-1 Sunday in Ayr. Milton also battled St. Catharines Saturday coming away 3-2 losers in an away contest.

Milton had their hands full with Cambridge which had captured the title in a highly competitive tournament in Newmarket recently.

Shayne Ferrier opened the scoring with a goal from McCall and Martin.

Scott Guthrie made it 2-0 with assists going to Ryan Haydar and Jeff Haydar. Scott Bertoll's cannonading shot from the point found the goal for a 3-0 lead. Cambridge broke the shutout bid with a goal late in the contest.

Against St. Catharines' AAA team, Milton fell behind 3-0 but rallied with two goals and almost pulled out a hard-fought win. Jeff Haydar and Martin scored for Sockets.

Milton travels to Dundas Thursday for its next game.

Optimists split a pair

The home-ice advantage did nothing for Milton's Optimist minor peewees in AA rep exhibition hockey last week. Optis played a home-and-home series with Oakville and reversed the usual trend.

Optis beat Oakville 3-1 in Oakville but dropped a 4-2 decision in Milton. It was the first action the Milton team has seen in almost three weeks, since being swept out of OMHA qualifiers by Georgetown.

The tune-up action was important ice time for Optis as they await an opponent in Tri-County playoffs.

Milton scored twice in the second period and once in the third as they defeated Oakville in game one of the mini-series. Kevin Davidson took a pass from Damien Dubien and fired a bullet from the point to put Milton on the board. Pat Henneberry stole the puck in the Oakville zone and scored unassisted to make it 2-0 Milton. Michael Lee fed Ian Ellis in the slot who scored to round out Milton's attack.

In Milton, Optis fell behind 3-0 after two periods and could not recover. Gio Piazza cracked the Oakville shutout on a pass from Henneberry. Ellis scored from close range to make it 2-2. Henneberry assisted. But that's all the offence Milton could muster and Oakville scored their second power-play goal to finish the game at 4-2.

Bees are back on top

Everybody's anxious to knock off the top guns. And sooner or later it always happens. It happened to Milton Beeline Trainers in novice A rep hockey action last week.

Ancaster defeated a lacklustre Milton squad 3-2, mounting a three-goal lead in the second period. It was the first time Ancaster has defeated Milton all year. But Beeliners rebounded to re-establish the status quo.

In the re-match at Ancaster, Bees stung the hometowners 4-2. Ancaster scored first and tied the game later at two, but Milton had a strong third period to carry the day.

In other recent action, Bees put the bite on Georgetown, dispatching their guests by a 6-2 margin. Chris Glover scored twice in that contest while Ron Flannagan, Doug Janjevich, Fabio Pento and John Moffatt added singles.

In other developments, Milton coach Dave Shuker is moving to Huntsville at the end of the month. Beeliners, besides wishing him the best of luck, are anxious to give him a going-away present by winning the Tri-County championship.

In the first contest against Ancaster, Milton was behind the eight ball by the second period. Ancaster ran up a 3-0 lead before Milton cracked the shutout late in the second. Janjevich did the damage for Bees, assisted by Derek Ridsdale and Blair Kitchen. Milton captain Kirk Kennedy made it a close game in the third, scoring from Jess Eason and Flannagan.

Bees were ready for the rematch. They started the game quickly, as Chris Grimwood scored the opening goal of the contest. Flannagan and Kennedy picked up assists. Ancaster retaliated to tie it but Kennedy put Milton back into the lead, assisted by Grimwood and Eason. Ancaster tied it again by the end of the second.

Grimwood got the winning goal, assisted by Flannagan, in the third. Winger Moffatt fired the insurance marker, unassisted, late in the period to cement the win.

Short-lived lead

Jennifer Cheevers scored four goals to give Milton's Home Hardware peewee girls a 4-4 tie with Oakville as only three minutes remained in their game Feb. 11, but unfortunately for Milton it was a short-lived tie.

Oakville came back with two quick goals and scored another into an empty net to win 7-4.

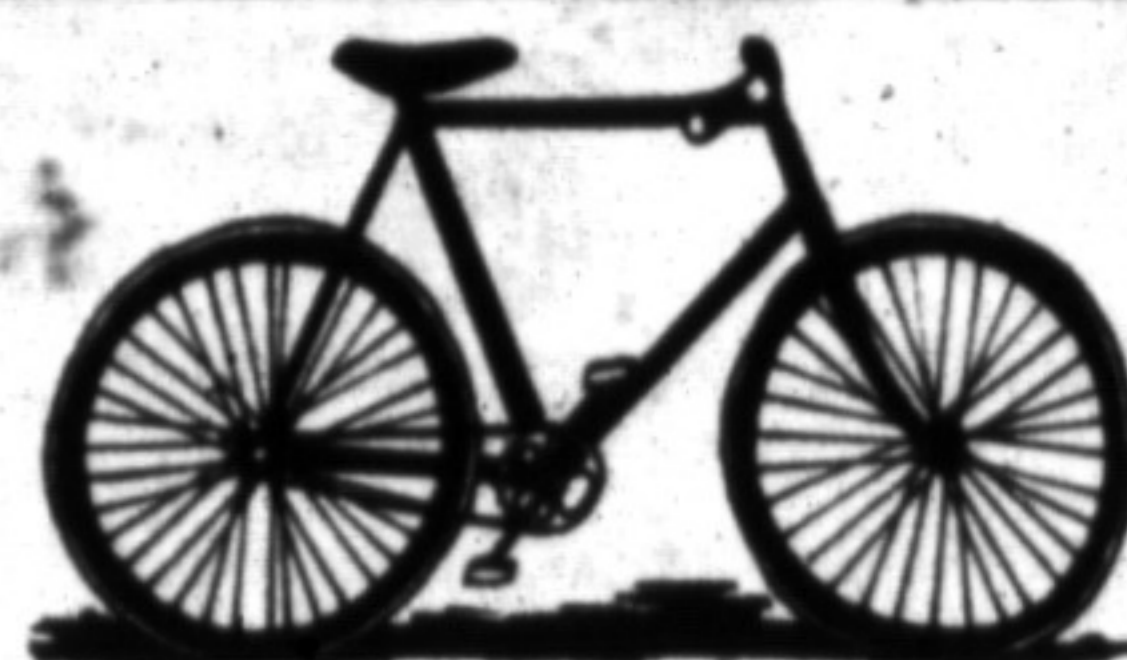
Cheevers netted her first 28 seconds into the contest but Oakville came back with two in the first and another in the second. Cheevers scored three times in the last period.

Following some player adjustments with Home Hardware, Milton's Mae's Drapery is now playing in the atom division (they were formerly peewees). In their new division, Milton lost 7-2 to Oakville but had a much tighter 2-1 battle before losing to Glanbrook.

Jamie Picard and Danielle Doucette scored for Milton against Oakville. Margaret Eidt scored her first goal of the season for Mac's against Glanbrook.

In bantam action, Brampton downed Milton Videoflicks 5-1 and Leaside edged them 2-1. Joanne Wanless scored for Milton against Leaside, assisted by Margie Parker. Helen Knowles scored for Milton against Brampton, assisted by Kim Lee.

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- Buzz & Michelle Roberts
- Tools & Shirley Perusello
- Sam Nadalin
- Milton Lions Club
- Bob Newman
- Frank Pender
- Millie Dorce
- Karen's Flower Shop
- John Hughes
- Town of Milton
- John Bain
- R.C.M.P. Oldtimers Hockey Club
- Roy Downs
- Gord Krantz
- Les Laughren
- Brush Family
- Rockwell International
- Bill Priniak
- Bruce Hood

I trust that we have not forgotten any one. Thanks again.

Club secretary
Bob "Pie" Lee

The winning number for Saturday night's T.V. draw was Orange Ticket No. 0290. (Game Only \$2) Please Contact Bob Lee at 878-5786 or 878-1150 to claim your prize.