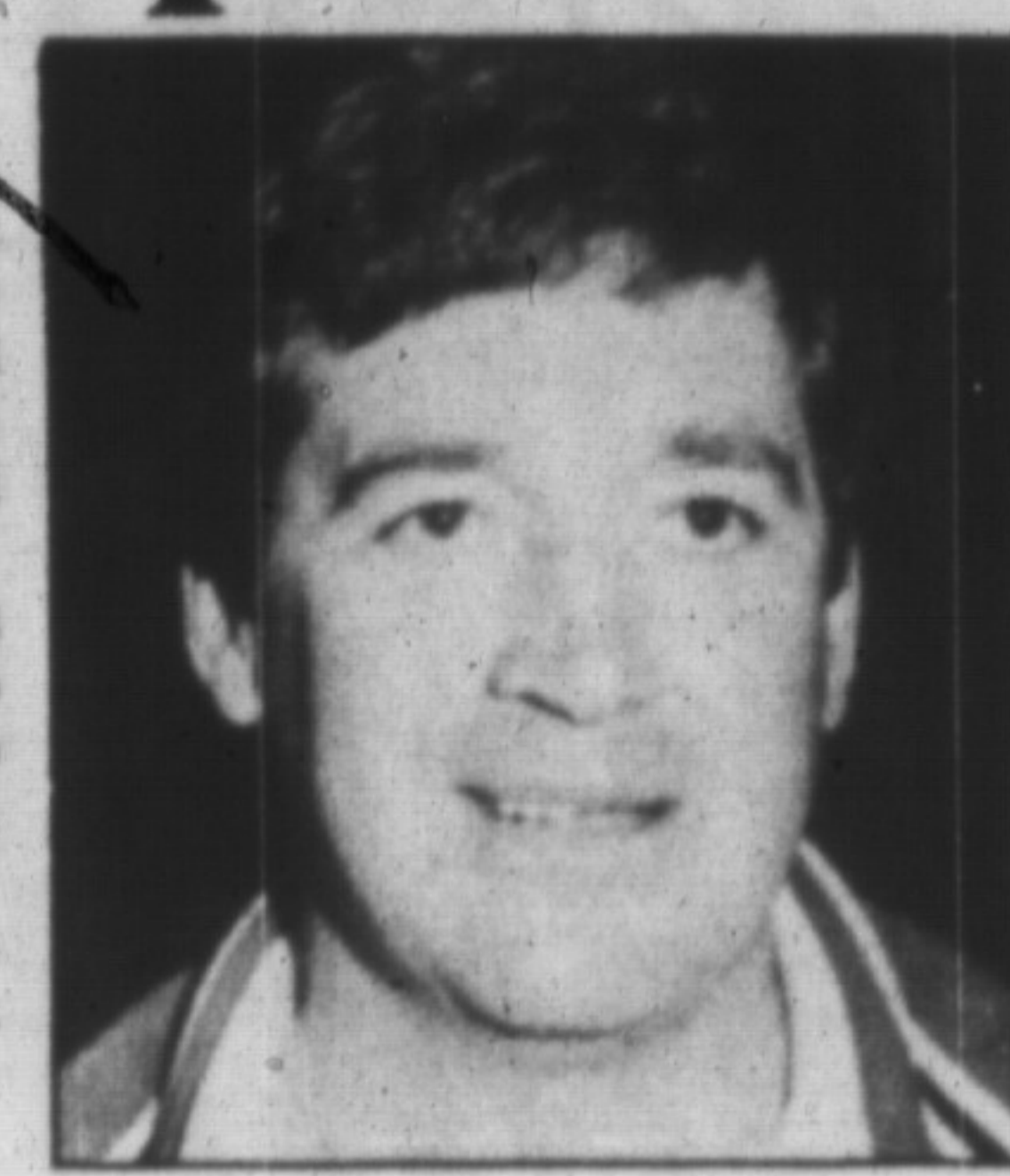


Spartans set sights on second place

21—The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, January 25, 1989



BARRIE ELLIOTT

By JEFF PASQUALE
If a break in the schedule can ever come at the wrong time, the exam break currently being enjoyed by Halton high schools isn't being savoured by Barrie Elliott, the coach of the E.C. Drury hockey team.
"We're four and oh since the Christmas break," said Elliott. "I wish we could keep on playing."
The big turnaround for the Spartans has come since the team dropped three of their players. They didn't replace them and have been playing shorthanded ever since.
"I went into the dressing room one day and said, 'I'm not happy with the way the team's been playing and I don't think anyone here is either,'" explained Elliott. "All season I've been harping on two

things, discipline and effort. Some of the boys weren't giving either."
One thing which has been haunting Drury all season is their lack of discipline. It even directly cost them a tie with cross-town rival Milton District High School in the first game of the season.
There was about 30 seconds left in the game and Milton held a one-goal lead. Drury pulled their goalie for an extra-attacker and the move appeared to pay off as Matt McCandless batted the puck into the net for the tying goal. Doug Poulton, however, was being penalized away from the play for delivering a vicious two-handed high-stick that negated the goal.
Since the Christmas break the team has gelled together and beaten White Oaks twice, Appleby and Q.E. Park.

Sounding a lot like a coach, Elliott continued.
"There's still a lot of room for improvement, though," he said.
The greatest improvement so far has been defence.
"When I say defence I don't just mean the goalies and defenceman. I mean team defence. The forwards are coming back and picking up their checks."
Elliott is very happy with his goaltending situation. Mark Harrison is the starter while Richard Saliba is the backup. According to Elliott, Harrison's goals against average has been about 2.00 per game. "That's excellent for high school hockey."
One player who's had more ups and downs this year than Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker is Matt McCandless, Milton's representative

on the East all-star squad.
"Matt started off very well for us, but he went into a tailspin before Christmas. He's out of it now and that showed Thursday's 4-1 win over White Oaks when he scored all four goals."
McCandless has led the Spartans in scoring in each of the last two years and it looks like he's going to do it again as he has 13 goals in the team's 11 games.
What Elliott is hoping is the recent wins carry over to next weekend's Bur Bear Tournament in Burlington the team is playing in.
"The wins showed the guys we can play with anybody in the league. We just have to stick to their game plan."
The Spartans record is now 6-4-1 and they have five games left in the season. They are currently sit-

ting in a fourth-place tie with White Oaks but have a game in hand. Their goal is to catch Milton and Blakelock for second place in the nine-team league.

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Photo by RICH FOOTE

It was a long night for goalie Chad Muldoon and his teammates on the Milton Merchants of the Central Ontario Junior B Hockey League team. The team went down to the Burlington Cougars 6-4 at home Friday night before losing to Georgetown, Saturday by a score of 7-4. The two losses extended Milton's losing streak to eight games, their longest of the season.

Milton not helping themselves

By JEFF PASQUALE
"Everybody is helping us but ourselves right now."
This is the lament of the coach of the Milton Merchant's Junior B hockey team, Gary Ford.
What he means is the team the Merchants are trying to catch in the West division of the Central Ontario Jr. B Hockey League, Mimico Monarchs, are losing games hand over fist. The problem is so are the Merchants. Milton is currently four points in arrears of the Monarchs with a game in hand. The two teams play twice more this season, including Friday night in Milton.
Milton lost in Georgetown 7-4 Saturday after dropping a 6-4 decision to Burlington Friday at home. The two losses ran their current losing streak to eight games, their longest of the season.
"The thing is the games have been close. We've had our chances to win them, but we're having trouble putting the puck in the net," he said.
The trouble the Merchants have been having this year is scoring when they have to. They always seem to end up one or two goals short. When they allow eight, they score six, but when they allow three they only score two.
"It's not our effort. I think the team has been working very hard."
In Friday's loss, the Merchants certainly had their chances as referee Bob Laurence did everything but don a Merchant sweater to help Milton pull the game out. Laurence gave Burlington 22 minor penalties and one major, while only nailing Milton for 15 minors.
During the game Milton enjoyed two-men power-play advantages for seven minutes and managed only one goal in that situation. Two of their other goals came while they were enjoying one-man advantages.

Burlington opened the scoring while on the power play but Mark Zebede got that one back with a power-play marker before the first period was out.
Burlington opened the second period strongly, scoring twice in the first five minutes of the period. Scott Gale cut the lead in half on an excellent solo effort and Brian Harjanta tied the game at 3-3 on a long slapshot from the point while the Merchants had the man-advantage.
Once again in the third, Burlington scored early and often, firing three goals in just over seven minutes. Although they pulled out all the stops in the late going, the Merchants could only manage Shawn Healey's goal.
Just like in Friday's game, the Merchants entered the final period tied against Georgetown, only to watch the game slip away. In the first period, Gale and Graham Taylor each scored to offset two goals by Brent Presswood of Georgetown.
The teams traded second-period goals, Milton's by Paul Jeffrey and Georgetown's to Chuck Loretto. The frame was marred, though, by a bench-clearing brawl which saw five members of each team hit the showers a little early.
Gone for Milton were Robb Wilson, Paul Hartley, Graham Taylor, Mike Dunphy and Dwayne Churchill, while Milton lost Kevin Dance, Rod Pasma, Greg Brazeau, Gavin Cole and Chris Lee.
The difficulty seemed to help the Raiders as they scored four straight goals to open the third period before Gale finally got one back for the Merchants.
Milton played in Oakville last night and host Mimico Friday night at 8 p.m. at Memorial Arena, a game the locals will have to win if they harbour any hope of catching the Monarchs.

McCann first Springer to attend Winter games

Brigitte McCann has become the first-ever member of the Milton Springers Gymnastic Club to qualify for the Canada Winter Games, being held this year in North Bay in March.
McCann, competing in the Tyro A division of the Central Region's second of three qualifying meets on the weekend, finished with a total score of 35.15.
She earned the honour of going to the Winter Games thanks to finishing in the top six overall of the four A divisions, Argo, Tyro, Junior and Senior.
Her score of 35.15 was good enough for second place overall.
McCann was the lone Springer competing in the Tyro A division. On the way to her overall second place, she took silver medals on the bars and vault, and fourths on the beam and floor.
In the Pre-Argo division, the two local competitors reversed their results from the first qualifying meet. Amanda Young's steady beam routine earned her the gold medal. Added to this was a fifth place on bars and sixth on vault, which together with her seventh place finish on floor, gave her a total score of 34.55 and the second place overall.
Joanna McSween placed fifth overall with a score of 34.15. She took a third on the bars, a fourth on the beam and a fifth on the floor to help her accomplish this result. Both girls are in good positions for an invitational provincial meet for their category as their division doesn't go to a provincial level.
The Argo B team placed second overall with all of the members of the team placing in the top half of the 25 competitors overall.
Vicki Chliszczyk led her team once again with a total score of 35.25 points, good enough for fourth place overall. A bronze medal vault and a fourth place on beam were the highlights of her performance. Sheree Loughlin's consistent scores earned her the sixth place overall with a total score of 34.85. Her lively floor routine was good enough for fifth place.
Sara Castrucci was right behind in eighth place overall, nailing down a third on bars. Heather Pettigill made the transition from Pre-Competitive to second-year competitive with no trouble. Her fourth place on beam helped her achieve 10th spot overall.

Heather Coffen was just back in 12th place with her best day, earning a third place bronze medal on vault and a sixth place for her beam routine.
Amy Newell kept the Springers in the top half of the Tyro B division with her 10th place finish overall and a sixth place on bars. Lisa Boylan rounded out the Tyro B team with a seventh place on the vault.
Alissa King topped off her day with the overall bronze medal and a score of 35.20 in the Senior B division. She collected silver medals for her bar, beam and floor routines and a third place for her vault.
The girls now get to take a break from competition until the end of March. They plan an exchange trip to South Carolina to hone new skills before the third qualifying meet in Oakville in a couple months time.

Gunners lose three straight league games

It was a bad week for Milton Royal City Gunners as they dropped three straight games in Mississauga Indoor Soccer League action and dropped to fifth place overall in the six-team league.
The Gunners lost 4-3 to the Mississauga Colts, 5-4 to Litton Winchester and 5-3 in their most recent game to Ontario Bus.
"We were leading 3-2 against Ontario Bus when our goalie (Grant Palmer) let in three goals he should have had," said coach Reg Griffin.
Scoring against Ontario Bus were Kevin Griffin with a pair and Graham Soutar with the single.
Milton was leading at the half in the game but Ontario scored a quick pair just after the half. Milton got those two back, though, before Ontario came through with their three.
Scoring for Milton against the Colts were John Davis, Iggy King and Griffin. King with two, Davis and Simon Kay did the honours against Litton.
Milton now sits with a 2-5-2 win-loss-tie record, and their goal for the rest of the season is to make it to second place.