

Merchants split first two games of season

By JEFF PASQUALE

Although the players were still introducing themselves to each other minutes before the regular season opener, the Milton Merchants of the Central Ontario Jr. B Hockey League managed a split of their first two games, both on the road.

The Merchants started the year with a 5-1 loss to the Burlington Cougars Friday night in Burlington, but bounced back with a 6-3 victory over Peterborough Jr. B Pites in Peterborough.

Jeff Daw scored the only marker for the Merchants in the Burlington game, but despite the lopsided score Milton coach Rick Bince wasn't unhappy with the result.

"They scored four of their goals on the powerplay which means the game was 1-1 at even strength," he explained. "With all the new guys in the lineup, it isn't unusual for the special teams not to be working well."

New guys is a bit of an understatement: Trevor Doddman was picked up from Mimico in a cash deal late Thursday while

Brad Thompson came over from Brampton, via Oakville, Friday afternoon.

"Both these kids are 6'1" defencemen. They're the guys we've wanted from Day One," said Bince.

The rest of the defence corps is made up of returning players Paul Hartley and Robb Wilson, John McLeod from the Brampton bantam squad and Grant Thompson, a local player who was at university last year. In the typical Bince fashion, all these guys are big and tough.

By the time Monday's game in Peterborough rolled around, the players had a game and a practice together under their belts. Judging by the results it paid off.

Peterborough is a tough team. They started the season 2-0 and beat Burlington. We knew they weren't going to be easy.

It looked like it might be a long night when Peterborough opened the scoring 29 seconds into the match but Milton fought back to take a 2-1 lead. Still in the first period the Pites scored a pair of unanswered goals to lead, 3-2. Then came the turning

point according to Bince.

"Right at the end of the first period we took a pair of penalties and I thought, 'Uh oh, here we go again,'" said Bince. "But we came out at the start of the second period and killed the penalties and then Pat O'Leary tied the game up for us."

The second period ended in a 2-2 tie but Milton came out with all their guns blazing in the third after a couple of "magic words" by Bince. Shawn Healey scored two goals, both on breakaways and less than a minute apart to put Milton into a commanding lead. Mike Crestpeigne added an empty net marker with other goals going to Daw and O'Leary.

"We didn't go into a defensive shell after we took the lead, we played solid hockey. That's something we've got to keep doing," said Bince.

The Merchants are back in action Friday night, the home opener, when they host Peterborough at 8 p.m. at Milton Memorial Arena. They then head to Georgetown to take on their arch-rivals, the Raiders, Saturday.

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Photos by JON BLACKER

Tara Laskosky, right and below centre, finished fourth in the senior girls division of the Royal Classic cross-country race held at Kelso Conservation Area Thursday. The race was put on by Bishop Reding Roman Catholic Secondary School. The Milton District High School senior girls team, led by Laskosky, finished in second place. The event attracted 45 schools and over 600 competitors.



Cross-country meet a Royal Classic

By JEFF PASQUALE

In their short history, the Bishop Reding Royals have done things one way — first class. And Thursday's Royal Classic cross-country meet at Kelso Conservation Area wasn't any different.

Although nobody local won any of the races, the event was even bigger and better than last year when it was considered a huge success. The number of schools racing went from 35 last year to 45 this year and there were 650 runners.

"The day went very well," said Darrell MacDonald, the coach of the Bishop Reding cross-country team and the organizer of the event. "The weather was perfect, the turnout was great, it couldn't have gone any better."

The dominant team of the event was Westdale High School of Hamilton, which took the girls title, the boys title and the overall title. They also won the junior girls and senior boys team titles.

In the midget girls, St. David's of Waterloo took first while Milton District High School was runner-up. Amanda Settle of Burlington's M.M. Robinson won the race in a time of 12 minutes and 22 seconds (12:22). Karen Johnston of MDHS was third, Bishop Reding's Charla Rutherford 18th and Dayle Harrison of E.C. Drury took 24th.

Finishing fifth behind Westdale in the junior girls team event was Milton District. Sara Mulholland of Georgetown won the 4km race in a time of 18:26. Tracy Faulkner of MDHS was 27th while ECD's top finisher was Melanie Hewitson in 33rd.

The senior girls race was won by Ridley College of St. Catharines with MDHS finishing runner-up. Carrie Howard of Westdale won the 4.8km race in a time of 19:54. Tara Laskosky of MDHS finished a very respectable fourth with Melanie Wood of ECD in 33rd.

On the boys side, Regina Mundi of London won the team title while MDHS squeaked in for a fifth place finish. Neil Whitaker of Burlington Lord Elgin was first in a time of 16:41 over the 4.8km course. Chris Heipel of MDHS took eighth, ECD's Mike Belford was 11th and Mark Wild of BR came home in 27th.

The junior boys team title went to St. Mike's of Toronto with MDHS finishing fifth. John Dolynchuk of Centennial Collegiate in Guelph ran the 6km course in 19:58, good enough for first place. BR's Chris Check was 14th, Ryan McLean of MDHS 19th and ECD's Paul Sutherland 30th.

The best race of the day was the senior boys where Jason Bunsten of Westdale led his team to the title thanks to a course record of 28:21 for the 8km. Bishop Reding, led by Mike Wyman who finished eighth, finished third in the team race. Jim Twist was across the line in 43rd for ECD.

"We attracted some of the top running schools in southern Ontario," said a pleased MacDonald. "We're going to just try and keep building from here."

Mustangs defence leads way in 20-7 win over Central

By MATT GUINEY
Special to The Champion

The Burlington Central Trojans had a pep rally just before their crucial Tier II senior football game with Milton District High School, but they couldn't carry the intensity over to the gridiron as the Mustangs came away with a 20-7 road win.

The game was a defensive battle all the way as both teams had to fight for their points. Neil Wolf started things off for the Mustangs when he blocked a punt which gave Milton the ball on the Trojans' 12-yard line. Mustang running back Bob Milne wasted no time putting the points on the board as he carried the ball into the end zone from the two yard line for the touchdown. Ben Swarbrick nailed the convert to make the score 7-0 in favour of Milton.

Missed extra point

Central finally began playing football in the second quarter as they drove 51-yards for a touchdown which was capped off by QB Tupper Brock's sneak from the one. They missed the extra point, however, and Milton held a slim 7-6 lead.

The game was tied on the ensuing kickoff as the ball skipped into the end zone and Milton conceded the single point.

The turning point of the game came when Milton had the ball on their own one yard line. With time in the first half running out, Mustang QB Jody Rowley handed the ball off to Milne who ran to the outside, in his own end zone. He avoided three tackles and then sprinted 98 yards before finally being brought down on the Trojan one yard line.

An offside penalty moved the Mustangs back to the six yard line and with only seven seconds left in the half it should have been an easy field goal. Unfortunately Ben Swarbrick, Milton's only place kicker, took a helmet to

the back and was out for the game. They decided to punt from the 10 and it was conceded for the single point. At half time, Milton led 8-7.

"Since we didn't have anyone to kick the field goal it was better to punt the ball and at least go into the second half with the lead," said coach Keith Pearce.

The single point changed the entire tempo of the game. The Trojans had to play catch-up ball, something they don't do well.

Drive kills time

Milton started the half with the ball at their 12-yard line and ended up punting from the Trojan 40, but the drive killed eight minutes off the clock and when Central finally got the ball, the third quarter was over.

The defense for the Mustangs let Burlington Central go nowhere as the Trojan running game was ineffective. When they went to punt at the 30, Milton's Jason Sessons blocked the punt and gave the offense the ball at the 25-yard line, the second time the Milton special teams had come up big.

"The defense really held up," said a triumphant Sessons. "I was just glad to get in there and do my part."

Scott Chadwick then took a handoff and rumbled down to the Trojan one yard line where Rowley took it into the end zone to give Milton a seven point lead.

With Burlington only down by a touchdown with three minutes to go, they tried one last drive, but Neil Wolf was there for the defense as his interception at the Central 40 put the game on ice.

With two seconds to go and the ball at the 32, Rowley threw the ball to a wide open Rich Carmen who stepped into the end zone for his first TD catch of the season to close out the scoring.

"Not to take anything from Milton, but we lost our star running back and the offense couldn't get the job done when needed," said Burlington coach Ian Couits.

The Dickens wins second sporting title within a week

Keith McKinnon turned in strong pitching performances throughout the entire playoffs to lead The Dickens to the Halton Men's Fastball League championship.

The win gave The Dickens its second major sports title within a week as the fastball crown was added to their recent flag football trophy. An impressive showing for any sponsor.

The Dickens squad topped another fine ball team, Apple Auto Glass, in the best-of-five final with an impressive 4-1 win last Wednesday at the Drumquin ball park. The win gave the series to The Dickens, three games to one.

The restaurant squad played well all season and received excellent performances from the entire team. As first place finishers in the six-team league, they proved their prowess in

the championship series.

The wily left-handed veteran, McKinnon, showed game after game why he was the leading pitcher in the league. Backing his strong arm were the effective bats of teammates Ray Delegarde, John Cramer, Frank Staresinic, Holly Dorman, Adam Hanna and Scott Oldfield. Great defence also helped the pitchers with solid efforts turned in by Howard Mott, Bill Roberts, Dave Wrigglesworth and Roy Main.

Rookie coach Gerry Lisi was particularly pleased with the effort of the entire team.

"I predicted before the playoffs began that Apple would be contending for the title with their excellent pitching and strong offence," said Lisi. "It was a satisfying to win the hard-fought contest and everyone contributed to our strong play."