

# Oakville nips Milton Honda to preserve perfect record

Oakville kept its perfect record intact with a tight 2-1 win over Milton Honda in Milton Indoor Soccer action last Sunday at E.C. Drury. Second place Acton Villa maintained the pace with a 4-0 shutout over the Dickens to remain one game behind.

Milton Honda scored first on a goal by Paul Nolan. Oakville knotted the score when a quick Eddie McLaughlin popped a well deserved marker. McLaughlin put his team ahead on a penalty shot underneath the Honda goalkeeper.

Acton Villa also counted a goal from the well travelled Paul Nolan to take a 1-0 lead. After

another goal in the first half Steve Smith scored two spectacular goals to cap the scoring.

In other games Fearmans outlasted Youth Coaches 4-3 and Webs United notched a 3-2 victory over Hi-5 Hair Design. Halton Outdoors Shop collected a 6-2 win over Optimist Center.

Aubrey Taylor opened the scoring for Fearmans and teammate Sandy MacPhail followed in his steps to add to the lead. Ian Jarvis of the Coaches narrowed the lead to a single and Bernd Schrader followed with another to tie the score. Fearmans then popped two and only a single by the Coaches Graham Smith

made it close.

Halton Outdoors went down 1-0 on a good shot by Tommy Kane. Outdoors replied when a fierce Eric Geldard shot rebounded off the wall to Rob Holliday who was there to find the mark. Glen Faulkner managed a follow up goal to give Outdoors a 3-1 lead. Keith Ford put the game away for Outdoors with a pair of super goals before Kane and Geldard split goals to determine the final 6-2 score.

John McDermott scored the for Webs United at the seven minute mark of the game. A low shot by John Holmes made it 2-0. Hi-5 was not about to roll over and die. They copped a

couple first from Danilo Kozulic and then Renato Mastracci. The final goal, the game winner, came off the foot of David Carniello to finish the very exciting game 3-2 in favour of Hi-5.

Games are suspended next week because the E. C. Drury gym is unavailable. On February 4 games resume with Acton Villa taking on Fearmans, Optimist Center facing Hi-5, Webs United hosting a much improved Milton Honda, Halton Outdoors trying to break Oakville's perfect 10-0 record and The Dickens trying to teach the Youth Coaches a thing or two.

The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, January 24, 1990

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Photo by JOHN WARREN

Mark Visheau of the Burlington Cougars took a standing eight count and lost the decision to Merchants Jason Molnar in the second period of Friday night's game at Thompson Arena. Molnar landed enough blows in the toe to toe slugfest to cut Visheau severely above the eye.

## Merchants settle on three new players for stretch drive

By BRAD REAUME

The Milton Merchants picked up three new players last week in their run to the playoffs. Despite only a single win in three games last week Merchant coach Rick Bince is satisfied.

"We're breaking in new bodies," Bince explained after Friday's win 5-4 over Burlington. "It's going to take time to determine the proper line combinations. Tonight, we gelled."

Newcomer Chris Clark who played part of last season in Europe nestled into a line with Rob Figliano and Pat O'Leary. The combination connected for six points against Burlington on Friday and convinced Bince that they could produce for the Merchants. "Clark hasn't played in eight months," said Bince. "During the game (Friday) he told me that nobody could stop their line."

The Merchants lost to Peterborough 7-5 last Tuesday and then two nights later to Brampton 3-1. Merchant assistant coach Don Ugolini explained that the team was in transition. "We started the season tight with a solid defence and few goals. Now we have goal scorers but our defence is suffering. We have to gear up for the playoffs."

"We had no zip, no nothing," said Bince of the two road games prior to Burlington. "We want to win to stay in this building during the playoffs. Nobody can beat us here." Milton is 10-4-3 at home and 15-15-6 overall this season.

On Friday Burlington opened the scoring at 3:44 of the first when Andy Pearce converted. He popped another one for the visitors and a 2-0 lead at 7:29 when teammate Matt Turek centered a rebound to set him up. With a minute to play in the period Milton executed a perfect two-on-one but Burlington goaltender Dave Smeriglio dove across to make a great save. Smeriglio was one of the last cuts from the Major Junior Hamilton Dukes.

With the help of a penalty to Burlington, Milton maintained heavy pressure through the end of the period. Burlington carried a slight edge in the play for much of the period but Milton had more quality scoring opportunities.

Milton converted the power play 38 seconds into the second when Grant Thomson zipped in a shot from the point through Smeriglio's legs. The goal proved that

Smeriglio could be beaten though he was to make some other fine saves on the night Milton no longer worried about the perfect set up.

"Dave (Smeriglio) is not playing regularly because he is so hot and cold," said Burlington assistant coach Dave Norton. "He hasn't had a settled year. He was cut by the Dukes and replaced as Hamilton Kilty B starter before hooking on with Burlington. Two days after we got him he broke his hand."

After Milton was stymied on a three-on-one break by a fine Smeriglio save Mark Visheau and Merchant Jason Molnar got into a toe to toe brawl. The players tore each other's helmets off and then slugged it out. Molnar, from the Stoney Creek Warriors of the Golden Horseshoe Junior B, is not big but he was left alone in that loop, so feared had he become. Visheau was left pouring blood from a cut above his eye.

The fight recharged Milton. At 11:30 Figliano pounced on a rebound and drilled it high to the glove side to tie the contest. Then Ken Guilford stole the puck at the Burlington blue line and moved down the right wing boards before firing a shot which fooled Smeriglio at 15:18.

Milton clung to the 3-2 lead into the third and at 6:07 they extended it when O'Leary blasted home a rebound off a Burlington defenceman.

The goal came after a number of close calls including a shot which rang off the cross bar. Chris Clark picked up the assist.

Less than two minutes later Clark made it 5-2 when he was able to get his stick on a Trevor Dodman rebound and put it under Smeriglio. Burlington tightened up the contest when they scored at 9:04 on a Christian Keogh slap shot from the right point.

Moments later Burlington hit the post off a quick backhand shot and later hit the crossbar but it was not to be.

At 19:55 with their goalie pulled and on a power play Cougar big gun Dino Felicetti redirected a Brad Rollo shot to make it 5-4.

"We didn't play the middle 30 minutes," said assistant coach Norton. "We allowed them to forecheck deep and we turned the puck over. Everybody was looking for someone else to do the job. Our concentration lapsed for the middle one and a half periods."

□ Standings, more stories on page 13.



Merchant Rob Figliano tries to convert a perfectly executed two-on-one but Burlington goalie Dave Smeriglio, late of the Hamilton Dukes and Hamilton Kilty Bs, dives across and smothered the shot which has already left Figliano's stick in the first picture. The Merchants

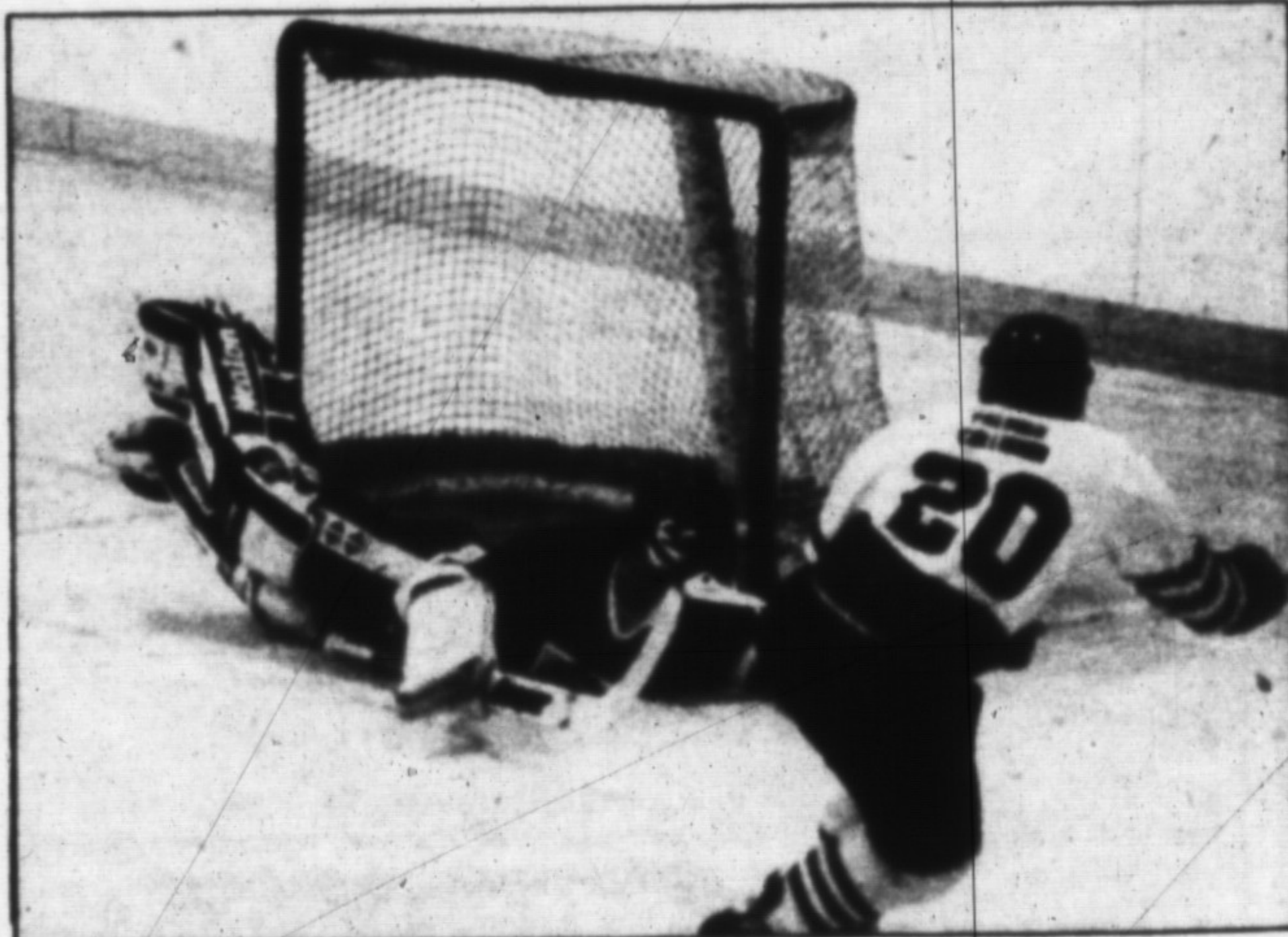


Photo by JOHN WARREN

prevailed 5-4 before a big crowd at Memorial Arena on Friday night. The win evened their record to 15-15-6 with 10 of those wins at home.