



Photo by JOHN WARREN

Hope on a wing and a prayer

J.J. Hope (34) of the Assumption Crusaders drives for the basket through the top of the key. He smashes into Mark Lawrence (25) of E.C. Drury but Lawrence holds his ground while Assumption's Bill Goodale (11) looks for a rebound. When the smoke clears it's Hope getting a charging foul while Drury's Don Smudlers (24) and Assumption's Jeff Schmid (25) are left to pick up the pieces. E.C. Drury juniors went on to win the game 57-43 to go into a three way tie for third place with Nelson and Aldershot. Pearson and Milton District hold down the top two spots.

New Merchants

How does Bince find these guys?

By BRAD REAUME

With the addition of four new front line players to the Merchant line-up they should be a tough team to beat as the playoffs near.

The question remains: How does Milton Merchant coach and general manager Rick Bince find all the players he signs?

With the heavy schedule of games and practices plus the pressures of a full-time job how can he spare the time to scout?

In the case of Chris Clark, who recently returned from Europe, and Graham Taylor, his scouting system is the telephone. Bince also keeps track of many of his former players and knows their status should he be in need of their services.

In the case of Jason Molnar he was pointed in the right direction. Perry Caputo, cousin of Miss World runner-up Leanne, played junior hockey in Milton before going on a scholarship at Northeastern University in Boston. He recently returned to town and started Kelso Insurance. The same Perry Caputo was the 1988-89 coach of the Stoney Creek Warriors.

Caputo heard that Molnar was unhappy and had quit. He passed the information and his assessment on to Brad Grant the Merchant owner who in turn tipped off Bince.

The Merchant coach paid a visit to Stoney Creek Arena and became convinced of Molnar's talents and those of another Warrior, Ken Tait.

Warrior coach Glen Walsh gave up his rights to Molnar but balked at giving up Tait. He was even guaranteed by Bince that he would be

Central Ontario Junior B Western Division

	G	W	L	T	Pt
Oakville	35	23	4	8	54
Streetsville	35	18	9	8	44
Burlington	34	19	11	4	42
Milton	36	15	15	6	36
Brampton	34	10	17	7	27
Peterborough	32	10	16	6	26
Georgetown	35	5	27	3	13

players. Molnar has had a couple of U.S. college hockey scholarship offers but he says that most were in the Ivy League and weren't full scholarships.

He figures it is more practical to remain in Canada and go to school. He will be attending Brock University in the fall.

Caputo has bowed out of hockey after 26 years as a player, scout and coach.

He says that the time commitments are just too steep what with his new business and a young family. He does entertain the thought of returning maybe as early as next year. He has been approached by the likes of Vaughn GM Greg Semerson and the Griffiths Peach Kings to coach their Junior B teams during the last two seasons.

"Molnar is a great kid. He's very competitive and he tries hard every shift," said Caputo who plays down his role in the Molnar deal. "I'm just a friend of the program," he says.

returned at the end of the season but Walsh felt he couldn't give away one of the few bright lights on his basement dwelling squad. "Ken Tait really wanted to come to Milton," said his former teammate Molnar.

"It would have been nice to play a bit more hockey this year," Tait said, "but they need me here to keep the spirits up and prepare for next year. I'll just hang up the skates early and grab the golf clubs."

"Walsh is a good coach," said Molnar, "he just doesn't have the

Jason Molnar, former Warrior, compares leagues

Jason Molnar has had only six games with his new team, the Milton Merchants. Since then, Jeff Edgar moved to the Merchants from Bramalea Blues of Metro Junior B, Graham Taylor joined the team from Sheridan College and Chris Clark returned from Europe to play here. Molnar might be the best qualified to speak for the newest Merchants.

A Stoney Creek native, Molnar played Junior C the last two seasons while the Stoney Creek Warriors were a member of the Niagara District Junior C loop. This season the Warriors were entered in the Golden Horseshoe Junior B League though they did not find out until June. With only two months to prepare they were woefully out-gunned and presently sport a record of 4-34-0.

"It's a different style of play here, a real bump and grind it out. The other league (Golden Horseshoe) had more open play and it wasn't as tight checking," Molnar says. "There is more talent in the other league, at least they seem more talented. The league is full of flashy skaters."

Merchants also tried to bring Warrior centre Ken Tait, a strong, un-ruly player with a touch, but that didn't work out. "Tait would have fit in here," says Molnar, who will attend Brock University next year.

Molnar had played briefly with the Hamilton Dukes, a Major Junior A team at the beginning of the season. That combined with the pressures of Stoney Creek's poor record took the fun out of hockey for Molnar. He quit the Warriors at the beginning of December and hadn't played until he was coaxed back to play for Milton.

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