

Atom A's win two of three games

Milton's atom 'A' Try Hard team posted two wins in three games prior to the Christmas break. They downed Erin 3-1 and Orangeville 8-3 but lost 9-2 to a powerful Oakville squad.

The first game was against league leading Erin. Milton lost all previous meetings but on this occasion took advantage of Erin's low expectations and posted a 3-1 win.

Milton forced play early with Michael Depalsmaeker and Chad Merritt getting a goal on a two-man breakaway. Merritt took the initial shot and Depalsmaeker binged in the rebound.

Erin tried to mount an attack but Matthew Dotto made three key stops to hold off the Erin rushes. The line of Scott Neal (called up from house league), Darryl Lauzon and Mike Copeland were constantly buzzing around the Erin net. Copeland capitalized on the pressure by converting a beautiful pass from Neal into a 2-0 lead. Lauzon picked up the second assist.

Early in the second frame Milton took an interference penalty that allowed Erin to notch a goal and cut the lead in half.

Ross Smith and Bobby Hicks were solid on the Milton blue line and thwarted the Erin forwards on

Rep Hockey

numerous occasions.

The third frame was all Milton although only one goal was scored, Lauzon on a nifty centering pass by Neal, the action was in the Erin zone most of the time.

In their second contest of three, Milton travelled to Oakville and despite some quality play, ran out of gas and lost 9-2.

Play started slowly with each team having difficulty moving the puck. A sloppy defensive play in the Milton zone resulted in an easy goal for Oakville at the five minute mark.

Milton forwards forced the action. Good scoring chances by Merritt and Matt Brown were turned back. At the eight minute mark Neal broke in with Brown and fed a pass to him. Brown bashed home the tying goal. Only a minute later, powerful Oakville notched a marker and re-established their lead.

The second period began well for Milton with good chances by Pento and Carroll. At the five minute mark constant pressure by Depalsmaeker and good blueline work by Faggion

resulted in both earning assists on the tying goal by Copeland.

Milton again fell victim to poor play as a poor clearing pass at the six minute mark resulted in Oakville taking a 3-2 lead.

The third period is one the Milton team will not soon forget. At the 20 second mark Oakville scored to take a 4-2 lead and that seemed to take everything out of the Milton team. Five more Oakville goals resulted in a 9-2 final.

The third game tilted the balance for Milton as they beat Orangeville 8-3.

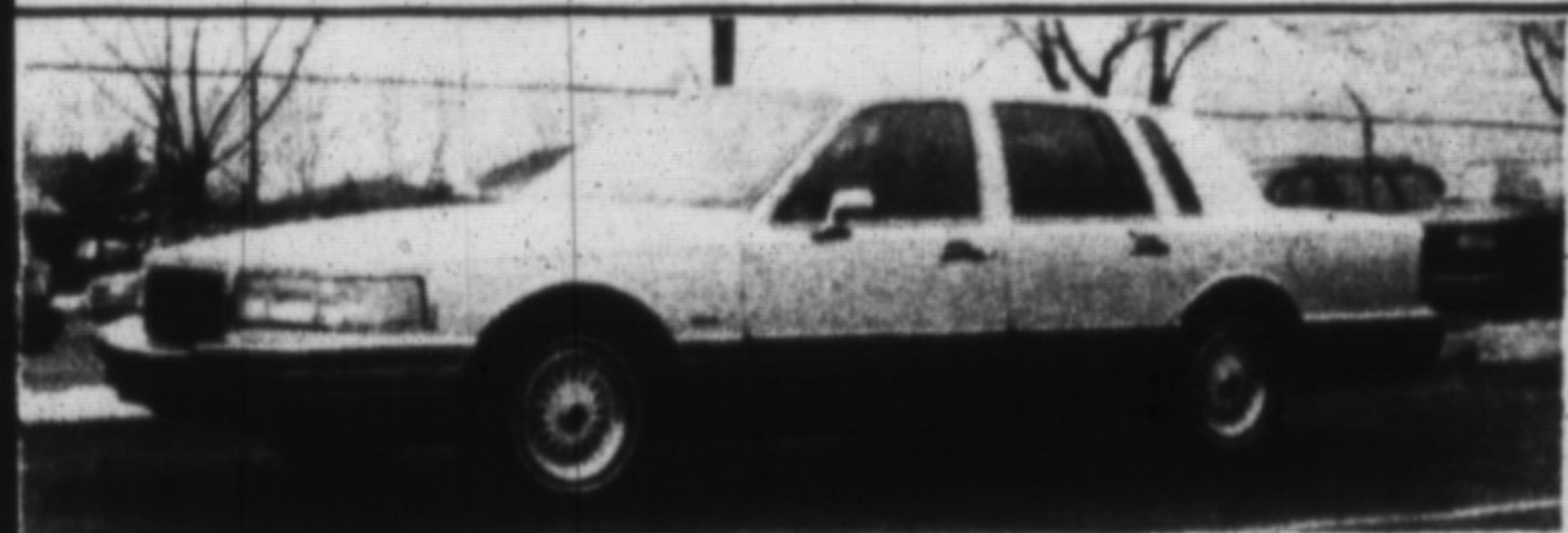
Milton started out strongly and kept the play in the Orangeville end. Depalsmaeker set Russ Smith out of the Milton end. He broke into the offensive zone, fed a pass to Merritt and who pumped home the opening goal at the two minute mark.

Play was scambly during the first part of the game and Orangeville connected on a quick shot to tie it up. Near the end of the period good forechecking by Carroll and Merritt resulted in Carroll scoring with Merritt picking up his second point of the game.

Milton continued to pour it on with the line of Joey Mulligan. Matt Brown and Paul Pento forced the

• see REP HOCKEY on page 14

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