

Merchants rally to take 3-0 stranglehold in series

By STEVE LEBLANC
Special to The Champion

If revenge is sweet, there should be some very sugary grins plastered on the faces of Milton Merchants Junior B hockey players.

The Merchants are determined to even the score with their old rivals, the Brampton Capitals, for playoff disappointments suffered at the hands of the Capitals over the last two seasons. And persistence is paying off, with

Milton (at press time) poised to sweep the opposition.

After a disappointing first period Tuesday night, the Merchants staged an exciting comeback in a crowded Milton Memorial Arena to score a 5-4 win and gain a 3-0 lead in the Central Ontario Jr. B Hockey League west division best-of-seven final.

The Capitals faced elimination at Brampton Memorial Arena last night (Thursday). If they managed to steal a game away from the

powerful Merchants, the two teams will face off tonight (Friday) in Milton at 8 p.m.

Perhaps 2,000 fans poured into Milton's Memorial Arena Tuesday to cheer the hometown team on to its commanding series lead. Dozens of onlookers were unable to find seats and many youngsters broke curfew to watch the Merchants in action.

Milton was anything but exciting in the opening period, however, and was fortunate to escape to the dressing room during the first in-

termission down by only one goal. They were outskated and outmanoeuvred by Brampton in the first and had a lot of difficulty handling the puck in their own end.

Milton captain Shawn Healey and forward Joel McAyer each had good scoring opportunities in the opening frame, but were denied by solid goaltending from Capital netminder Ralph Pellicori. Brampton top scorer Marty Wells notched the only goal of the first at
• see COMEBACK on page 26

SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Price was too high for other wrestlers in amateur championships

The price was too high for all comers at the Ontario Amateur Wrestling Championships in Hamilton last weekend. That's as in Chris Price.

Price was never seriously challenged at the McMaster University event as he earned his second consecutive provincial championship in the 99-lbs. cadet division. The gold further guilds a record that includes a bantam level championship last year.

Price was part of an E. C. Drury High School line-up that collected six medals at the junior and cadet division championships. James Miller earned a silver for the Drury Spartans and his strong showing was backed by bronze medal performances from Matt Davenport, Victor Sprenger, Scott McLaughlin and junior Chris Spence.

All six wrestlers advance to the national age-level championships in London on April 3-4.

Spence became only the second Spartan to ever earn a medal at the highly competitive junior level. While coach Larry Jaraslawski called that "an achievement," Milton's grappling guru was of the opinion that an officiating miscue cost his athlete "a chance at the gold."

Losing 1-0 late in a defensive battle with Durham's Adrian Wouley, Spence pulled off what appeared to Jaraslawski to be a three-point throw to win the match. "Unfortunately, the referee chose that time to blow the whistle in order to give Wouley his second caution for illegal blocking. He ruled he blew the whistle before the throw."

Spence recovered from the disappointment to claim the bronze with two victories, including his semifinal pin over pre-tournament favourite Anton Santaguido of Hamilton. With the five tournament wins, Spence's career victory total is 130, making him third on Drury's all-time win list.

Rookie Miller, wrestling in the cadet division at 127 lbs., had his best tournament to date, surprising pundits by going 3-0 to earn a shot at the gold.

After falling behind 7-0 to Kingston's Mike Long in the title match, Miller fought back strongly to take a 12-11 lead with only seconds remaining. But he was reversed at the buzzer and lost 13-12. The silver was still "one of the best performances by a Spartan rookie in a provincial championship," praised Jaraslawski.

McLaughlin (112 lbs.) put things together for what Jaraslawski called

"the best effort in his young career." Fresh off a silver medal tournament performance earlier the same week, McLaughlin went 5-1, upsetting three veterans on his way to a bronze medal. He avenged his championship loss at the St.

• see WRESTLERS on page 26

Personal bests abound for swim team

February was a busy month for the Milton Swim Team. The swimmers moved into their new training facility at the leisure centre and took part in a pair of meets.

The first was the 15th Annual Cindy Nicholas Swim Classic — B Championship hosted by the Scarborough Swim Club.

The meet involved more than 300 swimmers from 17 top central Ontario swim clubs. Milton sent eight swimmers.

Beau Davies led the way for Milton with a personal best time in the 15 and over age group's 100 metre backstroke in 1:15.99 for a third place finish. Davies also managed a good effort and a fourth place finish in the 200 metre backstroke and the 200 metre butterfly.

Brad Scanlon took second place in the 10 and under 200 metre individual medley with a personal best time of 3:22.30 and also improved on his time in the 50 metre backstroke with a finish in 45.73 seconds.

Kristi Roselle improved on two personal best times with a strong 1:10.37 in the 13 and 14 year old 100 metre freestyle and a 32.22 second time in the 50 metre freestyle. Erin Lawrence, also competing in this age group, swam a solid 100 metre backstroke in her best time of 1:20.18.

Laura Adamson, in the 10 and under group, improved in the 50 metre and 100 metre breaststroke with times of 49.74 seconds and 1:50.52 seconds. Beth Meehan improved in the 100 metre breaststroke with a time of 1:37.34 in the 11-12 year olds division.

The second meet was the Burlington Olympian Swim Stars Novice Meet. For some Milton swimmers this was their first meet.

In the seven and under girls Allison Rollwagen finished fifth in the 25 metre breaststroke. Among the nine and 10 year old girls Jennifer Dumencu was first in the 50 metre backstroke, second in the 50 metre
• see SWIM on page 26



Local wrestlers put a firm hold on medals at the Ontario Wrestling Championships. Matt Davenport (front) holds a bronze; (second row left) James Miller holds a silver; Chris Price (right) displays his gold medal; (back row left) Scott McLaughlin and Chris Spence (right) won bronze; and Victor Sprenger (absent from photo) won a bronze medal as well.

In Halton semis

Pearson downs Royals' cage team

After defeating rival Milton District High School last week, the Bishop Reding junior boys basketball team's season came to an end Tuesday when they lost in the league semifinals to Burlington's Lester B. Pearson.

The powerful Pearson team defeated Reding's Royals 89-61. Despite that, Milton coach John Shaw said he was "really, really pleased," with the season his squad

turned in. Peter Stelter and Carlo Zoffranieri were the leading Milton scorers in a losing cause, with Stelter posting 16 points and Zoffranieri adding 14.

In quarterfinal action, Reding downed visiting Milton District 40-35 on March 5. Stelter notched 18 points in that contest.

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