

Lillie strives for excellence despite hearing handicap

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 think it would be going to his head." But Lillie understands he's in a learning situation and is eager to listen, even if he can't hear. While another goaltender might argue about who's at fault on a particular goal, when Bince tries to explain to Lillie, he might just squeeze his nose with his fingers, laughs Bince, as if to say, "Yeah, I stunk on that one." Lillie's presence on the team has been a positive one as far as Bince is concerned. "There has been publicity and there have been a lot of people following Jeffrey's progress. But, it's all positive. Everything has been up and up and good for everyone involved, from the top of the organization down to the players. "We all think the world of him," explains Bince. Even some of the players on the team are trying to pick up elements of sign language so they can communicate with Lillie. Lillie says he likes playing with

Milton and that communication isn't a big problem. There are notebooks, gestures, the blackboard, and he can read lips. The latter ability is light-heartedly disputed by Dana, who thinks maybe he's not as good at it as he believes, citing a movie they went to that didn't work out too well. But, perhaps Lillie isn't the type of person to admit that he can't do something, considering how far he's come already and the goals he has in mind. "I want to show people that the deaf can do anything. The deaf have one problem — they can't hear. They can still play." Lillie will move up to the Kitchener Rangers over the Christmas break, said McDonnell, when one of their goaltenders, David Belitski, will be playing with Ontario's under-17 team. McDonnell doesn't anticipate any problems. "The only communication we have to have is that he stops the puck."

Merchants rebound to win after shaking up line-up

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 during critical penalty-killing shifts in the final period. Veterans Daner Finn, Cox and Lindsay were sharp on the back line, as were Jeff McArthur, Rick McDonald and Turner, who broke up a big two-on-one Cougar rush in the middle frame. "The team's been struggling a little bit with inconsistent play so we went with some line changes and were able to knock off the second-place club. At this point in the season, I have to go with my best players," said Bince, whose hockey club has lost only one of their last eight games. Last Saturday, Milton travelled to Mimico Arena to record their fourth win of the season over the Royal York Rangers — this time in a 5-1 victory. Newcomer Scott Hay, acquired from Belleville Bulls, was between the pipes for Milton and got his first win as a Merchant. Team captain Finn led the way with a pair of goals and Cox picked up three assists. Also scoring for Milton were

Sweet, Henneberry and team scoring leader Jamie Janjevich while Janjevich, McPhail, Sweet and Bertoli drew the other assists. Milton's winning week lifts their season record to 14-12-2 and puts them one point behind the fourth place Oakville Blades in Central Ontario Provincial Junior A West Division standings. Jeff Lillie was in net against Hamilton and took the loss. Turner and Back notched Milton's goals, with assists coming from McPhail, Derek Pajot and affiliated players Greg Martin and Kevin Nascimben. Notes: The Merchants began a busy three-game schedule this week with a home game against the Oakville Blades last night (Tuesday). The team will take on the Brampton Capitals tomorrow evening (Thursday) and return home Friday to finish out 1993 league play against the Georgetown Raiders. Merchants' fans bringing non-perishable food items to Friday night's home game will receive \$1 off admission. All proceeds will be donated to charity.

Cagers knock off tough Martingrove

The Bishop Reding senior boys basketball team won their second tournament in a row in Barrie on the weekend, battling to a hard-fought 65-62 victory over Martingrove in the championship.

Milton showed a balanced attack, with seven players scoring in double figures at sometime during the tournament. Enroute to the championship, Milton beat Peterborough Collegiate and Orillia District.

In junior boys basketball action, the Reding Royals made it to the finals of the Holy Cross Tournament in St. Catharines. Milton beat Burlington's Pearson High 70-63 in what some called the game of the tournament. But the intensity of that competition proved to be the Royals' undoing as they bowed out in the championship 51-39 to St. Augustine.

For Milton, Doug Enright was chosen tournament all-star for his playmaking and tenacious defence. Exceptionally strong efforts came from Jim Stelter, Mason Clauser and Pat Sweeney.

ROYAL REPORT

with NIKKI ST. JOHN

In first round play Milton beat Lakeport 55-33, then defeated St. Mary's 56-45.

Robinson leads hockey Mustangs

The Milton District High School boys hockey team downed Georgetown 6-2 and battled Burlington's Lord Elgin to a 3-3 draw in recent action.

Mitch Robinson led the Mustangs to the Georgetown victory, scoring two goals. Matt Downs had three assists. Jim Leworthy was strong in goal, while Graham Henderson, George Kaldenbach and Blair Kitchen all turned in good efforts.

Downs, Kitchen and Kaldenbach each scored once in the tie against Lord Elgin. The Mustangs face off against Burlington's Assumption today (Wednesday) at Memorial

The junior boys also downed Loyola of Oakville 49-43 last week in exhibition play.

The midget boys basketball team defeated Loyola 54-43. Nick Aalbers played well. The Royals also bowed out in the consolation final of a tournament at E.C. Drury High in Milton on the weekend.

MUSTANG REPORT

with JENNIFER MARVELL

Arena in Milton.

In basketball, the senior boys edged Georgetown 64-56 behind the 20-point effort of Andrew Skinner and Jake Swarbrick's 18 points.

The juniors also beat Georgetown, in a more lopsided manner, by 81-33 in a well-rounded team effort.

The senior Milton District cheer-leading team won first in the Markham Cheer Competition Saturday.

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