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19 - The Canadian Champion, Friday January 24, 1996

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 24, 1996

Just a foot between them

Milton's Matthew Jenson of the Young Choung Tae Kwon Do Club (right) flings a kick in the direction of opponent Nathan Rosella during Saturday afternoon tournament action at Bishop Reding Secondary School. Rosella went on to take the match.

Photo by
 Graham Paine



W.I. Dick basketball teams bring home gold

It was a double dose of sweet victory this past weekend for the W.I. Dick Wildcats, whose girls and boys basketball teams each brought home championship gold from the McKenzie-Smith Bennett Mustang Main Event Tournament.

The Wildcat ladies steamrolled through their competition, claiming four straight wins, including a decisive 37-15 triumph over crosstown rival Sam Sherratt in the finals.

Enroute to the championship showdown, the Wildcats beat Sherratt (35-26) and Georgetown's Centennial (32-23) in round-robin action and then destroyed Stewartown 41-11 in the semifinals.

Leading the offensive game for W.I. Dick was Chrissie Henderson with 42 points in four games. Point guard Samantha Kindree was solid on defense and netted 18 points while Joanne Gunding, Nadia DiLivio, Melissa McFarquar and Melissa Parcels all hit double digits as well.

Comprising the rest of the squad are Christy Robertson, Laura Batanoff, Jacquie Calbery, Garion Sparks-Austin, Jessica Simpson and Tara Jakes.

The Wildcat boys were also a perfect 4-0 in the tournament, and dumped Sherratt 50-37 in the finals to take the gold. High scorers in the championship tilt were Jarrod Blinch with 16 points, Danny Merritt with nine and Mike Sinclair with eight.

Quarterbacking the defense was point guard Cam Ivans, while Adam Fredericks and Doug Hopkins controlled the game underneath the boards, pulling down numerous rebounds.

Wildcats are looking sharp in girls' ball

The W.I. Dick Wildcat girls' basketball team has been on a tear through the early stages of their 1996 season, chalking up three straight wins for top spot in the North Halton standings.

Wins have come against Stewartown, McKenzie-Smith and Centennial, with hoopsters Chrissie Henderson and Sammy Kindree leading the way.

In boys' action, the Wildcats lost a 49-47 squeaker to Centennial last week and fell to second with a 2-1 record.

Their wins have come against McKenzie-Smith and Stewartown. Cam Ivans has been W.I. Dick's top male shooter of late, hitting the double digit mark twice already.

Sam Sherratt's girls squad sit second with a 2-1 showing while their boys' crew are 1-2 for fifth place.

Brookville's boys' and girls' teams are both 1-2.

Blades edge Milton 4-3 in overtime

By STEVE LeBLANC
 Special to The Champion

They had their 14-game unbeaten streak snapped this past weekend, yet even in defeat the Milton Merchants refused to walk away empty-handed.

The loss came courtesy of the Blades, who squeaked by with a 4-3 decision Sunday afternoon in Oakville. However, the home team needed overtime to claim the victory — and as a result, the Merchants skated away with one more point for their efforts.

With two previous wins last week, 3-2 and 4-0 decisions over Bramalea and Burlington respectively, Milton continues to sit in third-place in the West Conference with a 22-13-7 record.

"Our defensemen were atrocious with the puck and our forwards were soft up front as well," said head coach Gregg Carrigan of Sunday's loss. "Sunday afternoon games have not been good for us this season, the guys were not quite focused for this one."

"We seem to take too many penalties against them (Oakville) and they were very good on the puck battles today. They've beaten us four times now and I don't relish the idea of facing them in the first round of the playoffs," he added.

Oakville's overtime winner came off the stick of Jay Stewart, who caught a piece of the puck from a bad clearing attempt by Milton goalie Dave Dolecki and slammed home a low slapshot with Dolecki out of position.

The Merchants had come back to tie the game at 17:44 of the third on a shot by Robert Gubala, who had assisted on both second-period goals to help his team erase an early 2-0 Oakville lead.

Also scoring for the visitors were Phil James and

Cory Holland while James and Pavo Kekki drew single assists. Dolecki came in to work the last two periods plus overtime, after starter Steve Bewley's oncoming flu bug got the better of him in the opening frame.

Two nights earlier at home, the Merchants recorded their fourth straight win against the first-place Bramalea Blues. The streak includes a semi-final victory at the Newmarket Showcase Tournament.

While holding off on their usual tight-checking, aggressive format, Milton was able to stay close to the Blues through the first two periods — erasing a pair of one-goal leads before moving ahead themselves in the final 90 seconds of play.

James notched the powerplay game winner. He did a nice job of redirecting a beautiful Rick MacDonald slapshot through goalie Bob Dacosta's legs. Also assisting on the play was Gubala.

Turning in another sound performance between the pipes was Dolecki, who earned his 12th win this season. Jeff Haydar played big up front and scored his team's first goal and assisted on Kekki's second-period goal, a blueline wrist shot for his first of the year.

Drawing a pair of assists was Brian Jones, while Richard Reid had one. Captain Steve Clarke turned in an impressive two-way effort with big checks at both ends. "There was some big penalty killing on both sides tonight (Friday) and some very good positional play. We didn't seem to play our game until the third period. Before that we weren't forechecking or driving to the net," said Carrigan.

Milton's victory over Burlington last Tuesday at Memorial was their third shutout this season, and the first for Dolecki, who came up big with two

dozen saves. The game saw a number of affiliate players called up including Chris Healey and Jeff Dean from the Erin Junior C Shamrocks and Steve Roy and Darren Haydar of the Halton Hurricane midgets.

They did a solid job replacing Jones, Holland, James and Steve Adams, who all sat out with nagging injuries. The Merchants had little trouble scoring the win against the offensively weak Cougars — who currently sit six points behind St. Michael's for the final playoff spot.

Reid led the attack with two goals and an assist while Clarke and Mark McPhail added singles. Drawing two assists was Kevin Lamb, with single helpers going to Clarke, Jeff McArthur and David DeMonte.

Merchant notes: No official decision has come from the OHA on whether Dave Aussem will be allowed to return this season. Coach Carrigan said further discussions are currently being held between the OHA, Aussem and the Bramalea coaching staff. He added he only wants the 20-year-old forward to return if he is ready to play and able to handle himself.

Captain Steve Clarke and defenseman Jeff McArthur each drew an assist while representing Milton at last Wednesday's all-star game in Bowmanville. Their West Conference squad lost a 6-3 decision to the East All-Stars.

Along with seeing occasional ice time with the junior club, 16-year-old Darren Haydar has been showcasing his offensive talents with the Hurricane midgets this season. Last weekend he took home three game MVP awards and was the leading scorer at a tournament in Niagara Falls. He scored six goals and 15 total points.

The Merchants host Streetsville this Friday and travel to Toronto to battle St. Michael's Sunday.