



Teams battling for bragging rights in OMHA

Milton's minor league hockey teams have completed their regular season schedules and now begin their OMHA playdowns. Here's a rundown of who Milton's second entry teams will face and how they could fare.

MINOR NOVICE

Head coach: Martin Larkin
League record: 3-22-2
Place in Tri-County: 6th in Doherty Division
Reclassification: Double B
First round opponent: Not sure yet, most likely Elora or Acton
First game: Not available (best of five series)
Expectations: Despite a somewhat disappointing league record, the club finished strongly with a couple of ties against powerhouse Fergus. "I think we'll be going up against Elora and if so, it could be tough," said Larkin. "However, we've picked up our game in the past few weeks and haven't seen Elora since before the holidays."

Who's been hot?: Goaltender Michael Binnington continues to shine between the pipes, with key assistance from defence-man Nicholas Vipond. Up front David Debrun, Stephen Kays and Anthony Perruzza lead the attack while captain Raymond Parcels has displayed great leadership all season.

MAJOR NOVICE

Head coach: Tom Ferguson
League record: 0-25-3
Place in Tri-County: 8th in Harrison Division
Reclassification: Stayed Single A
First round opponent: Orangeville
Game(s) so far: Lost game one in Milton 3-1 (Michael Sonsogno with goal, Michael Sanders in net).
Next games: Next Tuesday in Orangeville, Feb. 10 in Orangeville, Feb. 19 in Milton at 7 p.m. (if necessary) and Feb. 24 in Orangeville (if necessary).
Expectations: While keeping things close with Orangeville this season, a winless record has coach Ferguson hesitant about being too optimistic. "We're absolutely the underdogs here," he said. However, his club has come on lately and he hopes to give the Orangemen a good run. Team showed strong defence in game one.

Who's been hot?: Michael Sonsogno, Seth Ferguson and Jonathan Volpe lead the forward lines while Sam Tomlinson helps anchor the defensive efforts. House-league call-ups Philip Foley and Liam Tennant have also been impressive.

MINOR ATOM

Head coach: Richard Holman
League record: 6-17-4
Place in Tri-County: 6th in Doherty Division
Reclassification: Stayed Single A
First round opponent: Fergus
First games: Thursday in Fergus, Saturday in Milton
Expectations: "They are both bigger and stronger than us, but if we play our game we are more than capable of giving them a good run. We're best when we play as a

team," said coach Holman, whose team has beaten and tied Fergus this season.

Who's been hot?: Captain Tyler Holman has been the team's leading scorer while Doug Pottruff is another gifted forward. Kyle Saliba has been a big all around contributor, late addition Christian Nonis has been strong up front and Craig Bridgen anchors the blueline.

MAJOR ATOM

Head coach: Ian Mitchell
League record: 5-17-4
Place in Tri-County: 8th in Harrison Division
Reclassification: Stayed Single A
First round opponent: Orangeville
Game(s) so far: Won game one in Milton 8-4 (Adam Bisenz 3, Connor Sweeney 2, Mike Winiarz, Paul Szafer and Robbie Bennett, Nathaniel Murray in net), Monday in Orangeville, results not available at press time.

Next games: Sunday in Orangeville, February 9th at 6:20 p.m. at Memorial Arena (if necessary) and February 11th in Orangeville (if necessary).

Expectations: Coach Mitchell says the team has been hot down the stretch, proving they can win in both league and tournament play. Although his team lost two close games to Orangeville this season, he expects to make it through the first two rounds undefeated.

Who's been hot?: This offensively strong squad is headed up by snipers Adam Bisenz, Andrew McMaster, Wes McDougall and Mike Winiarz. They also receive sound netminding from the duo of Matt Finn and Nathaniel Murray.

MINOR PEEWEE

Head coach: Norm Creighton
League record: 11-11-5
Place in Tri-County: 3rd (tied with Erin) in Doherty Division
Reclassification: Double B
First round opponent: Fergus
Game(s) so far: Won game one 5-3 in Milton (Adam Creighton 3, Trevor Ford, Cam Cashmore, Jonathan Reid in net).
Next games: Tomorrow (Thursday) in Fergus, Feb. 5 in Fergus, Feb. 8 at 8:15 p.m. at Memorial Arena (if necessary) and Feb. 10 in Fergus (if necessary).
Expectations: An 0 for 5 record against Fergus this season makes Milton the underdogs for this first round series. Coach Creighton states, "It's going to be tough, I don't know what to expect." An upset and berth into round two would likely pit them against Acton, whom they've been much more competitive with.

Who's been hot?: Robbie Falls, Justin Tingley and Adam Creighton have done most of the offensive damage this season, while the defensive unit is anchored by Chris Dumencu and Kevin Sales. Sound goaltending comes from both Jonathan Reid and Joshua Dickson.

MAJOR PEEWEE

Head coach: Brad Silk
League record: 2-22-2
Place in Tri-County: 8th in Harrison Division
Reclassification: Double B
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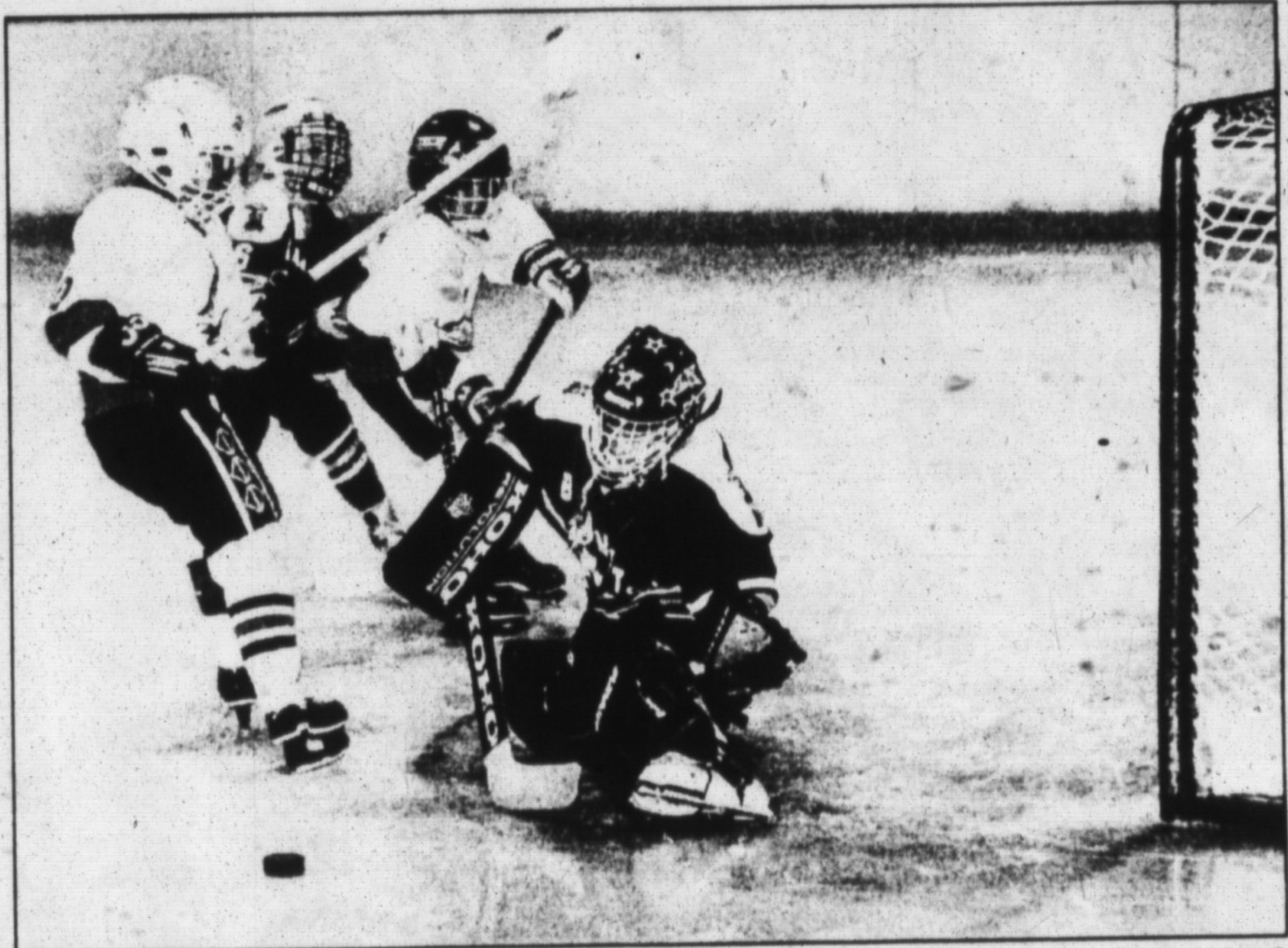


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

The Brampton netminder moved to smother the puck as two Milton attackers pressed in during minor novice rep playoff action Saturday at Memorial Arena.

Beat Georgetown

Spartans reclaim home turf title

The E.C. Drury Junior wrestlers grappled their Spartan Open title away from north Halton rivals Georgetown Saturday, in an exciting meet that featured 24 schools and some overtime thrillers.

Leading the way for the Spartans were gold medalists Justin Billingham, Blair Beaulieu and heavy-weight Garrett George. Billingham won a heart-stopping overtime final over provincial high school championship silver medalist Jason Estevan of Georgetown, while Beaulieu defeated Georgetown's Maurice Gear in another overtime final.

Their efforts helped the Spartans to a 63-42 victory over their archrivals. Lakeport of St. Catharines ended up in third with 27 points.

For George, the tournament victory was his first career gold.

Earning silvers were rookie Adam Scott, Nick Barkley and John McCart. McCart's medal was in the high school division despite the fact he is still a bantam age wrestler.

Jeremy Baron picked up his first career bronze, while sophomore Thomas Krebs was also third. Brad

Madden round out the finalists with a fourth place finish.

Heather Rollwagen became the first female wrestler in Drury history to win a medal, earning the bronze in her career debut.

A total of 16 girls represented E.C. Drury in the female division, another first for the school.

Dynamo wrestlers Adam Bisenz and Matt Devries led the way in the junior division, earning a silver and bronze respectively. Also earning a victory were Mike Devries and Dave Knot.

Chris Price and Victor Sprenger, also represented Milton Saturday at the Provincial Espoir (18 and 19 year-olds) Tournament in London. Sprenger became the first Milton wrestler to win an Ontario Espoir championship, going 3-0 for the gold.

Price fell short of a medal in perhaps the toughest weight class in the province, 150 lbs.

Finally on Sunday, Colin Widdis competed in the Western Open Tournament and went undefeated to claim the gold. It was Widdis' second university level title in two tries this season.

Marlins making some big waves

The Milton Marlins made some big waves recently at the Burlington Youth Aquatic Club Open Invitational Meet.

Garrett Lyall and Jennifer Porenta continued to lead the team, combining to take home 11 medals between them. Lyall, participating in the boys 11 and 12 division, scored four golds in the 50 metre freestyle, 100m butterfly, 200m individual medley and 50m butterfly. He also picked up silver in the 100m freestyle and took home bronze in the 200m freestyle.

Competing in the girls 10 and

under age group, Porenta struck gold in the 50m backstroke and then took silver medals in the 100m butterfly, 100m freestyle, 100m backstroke and 200m backstroke.

Teammate Kristin McIlroy won a pair of silvers in the 50m freestyle and 50m backstroke while Erynn Mayes scored two bronze medals in the 200m freestyle and 100m freestyle.

In girls 11 and 12 competition, Stephanie Fennell, Stephanie Slickers and Lisa Trencs each won a bronze in their respective events,

while Laura Mayes and Ashleigh Snow each took four seconds off personal bests in several events.

Yvonne Slickers and Caylanne Lyall continued to improve their times. In the boys age category, Philip Rzentkowski took nine seconds off his best 50m breaststroke time and six seconds off his 100m backstroke best.

Matthew Ishoy, Bartek Rzentkowski, Kathleen Charko, Kassie Slickers and George Dimitrov were all impressive as well, each setting new personal bests in their respective races.