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THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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## Merchants hope to sting the Hamilton Kilty Bees

The Milton Merchants have finished their regular season campaign and will now begin their quest for the West Conference championship - and perhaps beyond.

*The following is a rundown of information on Milton's opening round playoff series, which began last night (Tuesday). Results were not available at press time.*

**First round opponent:** Hamilton Kilty Bees.

**The series:** A best-of-seven showdown began last night (Tuesday) at Mountain Arena in Hamilton. Despite starting in Hamilton, the Merchants have home-ice advantage for the series, which continues Friday in Milton (8 p.m.) with game two. Game three will be Sunday in Milton at 7:30 p.m. while the teams return to Hamilton next Tuesday for game four. Game five, if necessary, will be played next Friday in Milton at 8 p.m. Game six would be played next Saturday in Hamilton and a seventh and final match would go the following Tuesday in Milton.

**Head to head:** Milton finished with a 2-1-2 record against Hamilton this season, with their only loss coming back in October before coach Gregg Carrigan took over. They have won the last two matches by scores of 10-0 and 4-2.

While the teams sport almost identical goals-for, 243 and 241 in favor of Milton, the Merchants were second best

in the West Conference in goals-against. Their 172 showing, in 50 games, was 34 lower than Hamilton's.

**Player update:** While veteran Dave Aussem will be back for game two of the series, defensive anchor David Boldovitch will likely miss the entire first round with a knee injury suffered Thursday in Brampton. The void may be filled by last-minute addition Wes Barbowski.

**Coach's comments:** "Hamilton will give us some strong opposition right off the bat. They're well coached and have a good playoff history," said Carrigan. "Having finished fourth overall, we'll have the toughest route to the finals. We're going to have to play well in the low defensive zone, get strong goaltending and score on the powerplay."

While his comments about Hamilton's coaching staff ring true, Milton may have the best head coach in the league this year, at least in experience. Before landing in town, Carrigan took the Caledon Canadians, of the Metro League, to back-to-back Centennial Cup tournaments. He said this Merchant team has as much or more character than either of those squads.

**Captain's quotes:** "This team has a lot of depth, and in a long series it's usually depth that wins it for you," said captain Steve Clarke. "We're also going to have to play it cool. Cooler heads will prevail in the playoffs."

## Dump G'town 12-1

## Merchants turn out lights

By STEVE LeBLANC  
Special to The Champion

The Milton Merchants celebrated the end of their regular season campaign Friday night at Memorial Arena by lighting up their opposition's net.

As a result, the Merchants finished with their most lopsided victory this season - a 12-1 bombing over the basement-dwelling Georgetown Raiders.

The win, coupled with a tough 4-1 loss in Brampton Thursday, gave Milton a final 27-16-7 record. This was good enough for fourth place in the West Conference, just a mere point behind the Mississauga Chargers.

The Merchants exploited Georgetown's non-existent defensive unit all night. After giving up a powerplay goal in the opening three minutes of the first period, the home side stormed back with 12 unanswered goals of their own - most of which were scored on two-on-one rushes or blatant giveaways by the Raiders.

The players took full advantage of the opportunity to pad their individual stats and bump up their confidence before the playoffs. "I was happy with the game tonight. It was nice that it wasn't a hard grinding game just before the playoffs," said coach Gregg Carrigan.

Doing the most stats padding Friday were linemates Steve Adams and Brian

Jones, who each had five-point nights. Adams tallied twice and added three assists to win the team scoring race with 71 points, three better than centre Jeff Haydar who scored once and drew an assist on the night.

Jones meanwhile, turned a hat-trick and picked up two assists.

Also coming up big with a pair of goals each were newcomer Aaron Rosenberg and Robert Gubala while Mark McPhail collected four assists. Singles went to captain Steve Clarke and Richard Reid while Steve Bewley worked the net.

Adams scored the lone goal the previous evening in Brampton, as the Capitals unloaded with three second-period goals en route to victory. Dave Dolecki was between the pipes and Reid and Haydar drew assists on the goal.

**Merchant notes:** Dolecki and Phil James were suspended Friday night for their part in the Bramalea game melee last month. The two will be back for the first game of the playoffs. Defenseman David Boldovitch however, will probably miss the entire first-round with a recently sustained knee injury.

The void will likely be filled with last-minute addition Wes Barbowski, a 20-year-old defenseman/left winger who played with North York Canadians and Thornhill Islanders last season.

## Grapplers look dynamic

### Juniors earn 10 medals in Brampton meet

The Junior Dynamo wrestling club enjoyed a successful outing Saturday at Williams Parkway in Brampton, earning 10 medals from 14 competitors.

In the Cadet division, Greg Moore - fresh off a Halton bronze showing - earned his first career gold in the 97 lbs. class. Jeremy Baron and Justin Billingham captured silvers while Nick Barkley claimed a bronze. Paul Perrott was fourth overall.

In the Kids division, Adam Bisenz, Kevin Moore, Mike Devnes and Matt Devries all brought home silver medals. Jesse Ronan and Mark Kerwin both claimed bronzes.

It was the best one-day medal haul for the Junior Dynamo program, which this year features the strongest squad since the program was formed four years ago.



E.C. Drury High School's Ryan Tyler (bottom) tries to fight off Burlington Central's Jamie Porteous in 141 lbs competition at last week's Halton championships in Burlington. Milton came out on top again. See story below.

## Frank Cavallo's upset powers Drury to lopsided wrestling win

The E.C. Drury wrestling team successfully defended their Halton high school title last Wednesday in Burlington, winning their ninth regional championship in 11 years.

The victory was not unexpected as the Spartans went in the favourites, but the margin of victory was a surprise. Drury fell just nine points shy of their highest point total ever, outdistancing Georgetown 179-119.

Drury was able to field competitors and score points in every weight class and had top four finishers in every division as well. At day's end, E.C. Drury led in all three medal categories, with five golds, seven silvers and six bronzes.

Leading the gold medal performances were defending champions Chris Denich and Darrell Dennis, who were joined by first-time winners John MacKinnon, Kevin Heffron and Frank Cavallo. It was Cavallo's upset pin over favorite Rob Larose of Georgetown that seemed to inspire Drury and allow them to take command of what was at the time a close race.

MacKinnon, moving up a weight class, pulled off two upsets of his own enroute to his Halton crown: Milton District High School's Victor Sprenger also brought home gold.

Earning silvers were Jeff Alderton, Clayton Cowton, Grant Heffron, Scott McLaughlin, Scott Mills, Chris Price and Brad Madden.

Leading the bronze medal parade for Drury was rookie Chad Merritt. Both Merritt and Madden, only fourth at the Halton Juniors, proved to be pleasant surprises, earning medals in weight classes dominated by

older wrestlers. Other bronze medal winners included John McCart, Greg Moore, Jeremy Baron, Justin Billingham and Darren Gallipeau.

Other top six finishers were Adam Scott, Jason Barrett, Dan Martin, Trevor Petheridge, Garrett George, Blair Beaulieu, Matt Townsend, Scott McFarlane, Gareth Savage and Dave Franklin.

All top six finishers advance to today's (Wednesday) Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) finals in Burlington.

## Two brothers make their marks on hills

A pair of local downhill skiers raced their way to big showings recently at Glen Eden during the Milton Heights Racing Club's first annual Invitational Slalom Race for Nancy Green/Mackenzie league racers.

Jeff Oole took second place honors in the boys 12 and 13-year-old age group while younger brother Greg Oole finished fifth in the boys 11 and under division.

At the Invitational Slalom Races at Snow Valley Ski Club, Will Cripps represented Milton and placed 24th out of 63 competitors.