

Minor bantams done for the season after 3-0 series sweep

By **MURRAY TOWNSEND**
Special to *The Champion*

It's all over for the Milton Lions Club AA minor bantams after a 7-5 loss to Orangeville in their Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) semi-final game Tuesday.

Orangeville goes on to the finals after taking the series three games to none.

Unlike their previous contest when Milton fell behind 5-0 and then almost caught up in the 7-5 loss, the Winterhawks managed to stay close all game and even held the lead a couple times.

Chad Merritt opened the scoring from Derek Birnie, but then Milton fell behind 3-1. Two goals by Chris Bramwell, who raised his game a level when Jon Sprenger got injured, and one by Paul Pento got them back into the game with assists on those goals going to Birnie, Merritt and Kevin Heffron.

Milton started the third period down 5-4, but 12 seconds later tied it up when Jason Ford scored from Bryan Gent and Bramwell. But that was all she wrote with a last-minute goal sealing the victory for Orangeville.

"They played as hard as they absolutely could," said coach Jim Marshall. When they went into the dressing room at the end of the

game they were absolutely done."

The playoffs are done too for this team, but all-in-all it was still a good year. "I was pleased that we did as well as we did but disappointed that we couldn't have gone farther. We lost the series 3-0, but even ask Orangeville and they would say we should have at least won one of them."

The minor bantams still have a tournament to play in Barrie before hanging up the blades, and of course there's always next season.

"There's a lot of potential yet on this team," said Marshall. "Next year they're going to have a good year again."

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SPORTS

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DiPalma fourth at international competition

Amy DiPalma kicked off her 1996 rhythmic gymnastics season in style, showcasing her talents at last weekend's Niagara International Rhythmic Challenge at Brock University in St. Catharines.

The 12-year-old local gymnast didn't let the pressure of her first international competition hinder her performance as she finished fourth overall in the 27-participant National Novice IV class.

Competing against gymnasts from Hungary and the Czech Republic along with those from Nova Scotia, Manitoba, British Columbia, Quebec and Ontario, Amy also struck silver in the ball event.

She placed fourth in hoop, just missing the top three with a costly throw-out, and finished sixth in rope. Her ball and hoop performances were among her personal best over the past two years.

"It was my first international meet, so I really didn't expect to do as well as I did. I was pretty happy with my performances," said Amy, who trains under coach Nadia Mihaylova at the Etobicoke Olympium Rhythmic Gymnastics Club.

She will demonstrate her skills Tuesday at the Harborfront Castle in Toronto, where she and 15 other top rhythmic gymnasts will perform the opening number at the Canadian Amateur Athletes'



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Amy DiPalma displays her skills in rhythmic gymnastics.

Awards Dinner. She'll also compete in next Saturday's Elite Ontario at Humber College.

In only her third year of competitive rhythmic gymnastics, Amy has now jumped up to the national level and will be looking to make a trip to the Canadian Championships this June in Montreal.

She'll first have to qualify at the Eastern Regionals in May at her

Etobicoke Olympium Club. Only the top eight finishers will move on to the nationals. With strong performances recently and home-field advantage for the qualifying rounds, Amy is confident in her ability to reach the nationals this season.

She struck silver last season at the Ontario Provincial Championships.

"I think I can reach the nationals if I just keep working hard," said Amy.

Alicia is the big Gunn of Lakehead U's basketball team

By **STEVE LeBLANC**

Special to *The Champion*

She may have only been a rookie this past season, but Alicia lived up to her surname as a "big Gunn" on the women's basketball team at Lakehead University.

A former star player at Milton District High School, 19-year-old Alicia Gunn made the most of her debut season in the Ontario Women's Inter-university Athletic Association (OWIAA), gaining widespread recognition at both the provincial and national levels.

She recently finished up a successful campaign with the Thunder Bay school team and collected two prestigious awards for her first-year efforts.

The first came three weeks ago during the OWIAA awards banquet at York University, where Gunn was honored as the OWIAA West Conference Women's Basketball Rookie of the Year.



Alicia Gunn

From there, her recognition swelled to the national level. She returned home from the Canadian Interuniversity Athletic Union (CIAU) banquet last weekend in Lavell, where she was officially named to the All-Canadian Rookie All-Star team.

She was the only Ontario native to join this year's all-star squad. She received an all-star jacket for this honor and a

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