



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

WEDNESDAY APRIL 3, 1996

17 - The Canadian Champion, Wednesday, April 3, 1996

Tough and tight games as season draws to a close

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

The sun was out in full for Saturday. The last bits of snow and ice melted, children took to the parks and playgrounds for some spring-time enjoyment and parents started looking for places to store parkas and mittens for another year.

Yet the warm temperatures that graced town this past weekend paled in comparison to the sizzling action that brewed inside Memorial Arena, where the Milton Minor Hockey Association held its annual House League Day of Champions.

From dawn till dusk, top teams battled it out in every division — for their family, friends, fans, coaches, teammates and especially for themselves.

The following is a run down of the day's championship games, as well as award winners from the entire season and last week's skills competition. Results are in order of games played.

Beginners

No scores or individual stats were kept here, but this initial hockey program provided some of the most entertaining moments of the day, as four teams — all sponsored by Tim Hortons (affectionately called Timbits) — competed in two half-ice games.

Playing with desire and enthusiasm rather than skill or strategy, these rink rats got their first taste of what will likely be years of enjoyable minor hockey for most of them. Little things like individual stats, awards and even who was winning didn't seem to interest these youngsters — who played simply for the love of the game. Even taking the occasional tumble didn't seem to bother them — after all, they didn't really have too far to fall.

Peewee

Shopsy's 2, Docs & Dents 1

Mark Medeiros may have been one of the smallest players on the ice when the game began, but he was standing 10 feet tall after lifting in the game winning goal that gave his Shopsy's crew a come-from-behind overtime triumph over Docs & Dents.

Finding himself all alone in front of the opposing net five minutes into the sudden-death frame, Medeiros was blocked by goalie Chris Wosilkowsky on his initial shot but then went upstairs with his second chance.

He also drew an assist on John Marshall's second period tally, which erased an early Docs & Dents' advantage established by lone scorer Matt Harris. Backstopping Shopsy's to victory was Kevin Jones while Jeff Anthony assisted on the game winner.

"It was a 100 per cent total team effort," said Shopsy's head coach Paul Ames, whose team had only beat Docs & Dents on one other occasion this season. "We pulled it together for the playoffs."

Peewee Award Winners

| House League Team | M.I.P. (most improved) | M.S.P. (most sportsmanlike) |
|--------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| McCuaig Insurance | Glen Pocock | Lee Furness |
| Kwik Kopy | Aiden Glynn | Paolo Dalbello |
| Michael's Optical | Jordan Prevost | Dan Debaeremaeker |
| Shopsy's | Matt O'Meara | Chris Casteller |
| Milton Dodge | Ricky Bannerman | Daniel Ripper |
| Docs & Dents | Brandon Hancott | Kevin Spahich |
| Rep | | |
| Major First Entry | Matthew Craig | Kris Beal |
| Major Second Entry | Reese Davies | Graham Carrol |

Minor Peewee

| | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------|
| Minor First Entry | Andrew Kirkland | Quinn Young |
| Minor Second Entry | Mike Volpe | John Reid |

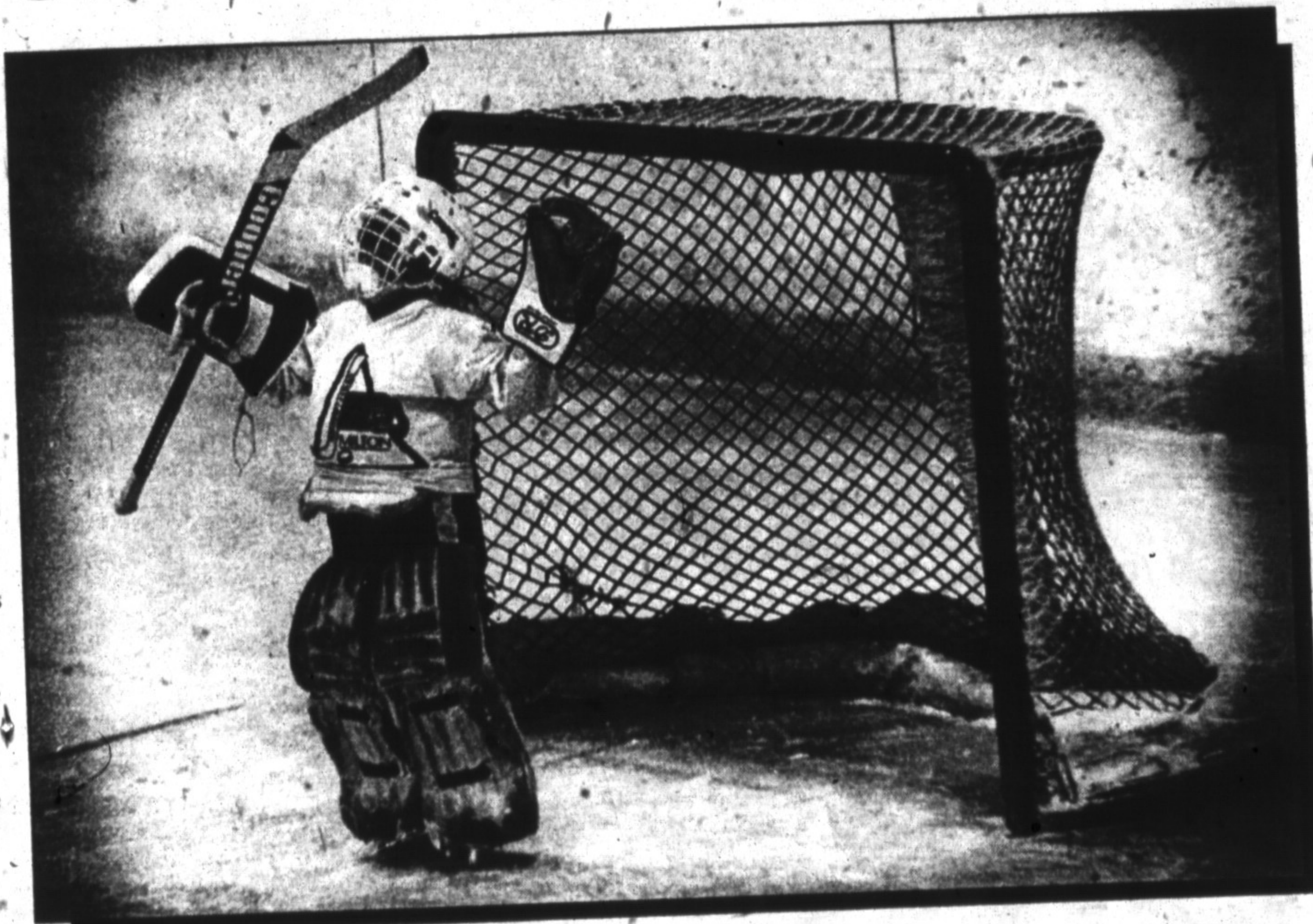
SKILLS - Top Shooter: David Walker (Milton Dodge); **Top Goalie:** Kevin Jones (Shopsy's); **Top Relay team:** Kwik Kopy.

Pre-Novice

Consolation finals

Key Centre 2, Little Firemen 1

After going ahead in the first two minutes of play, the Little Firemen had their flame extinguished by a determined Key Centre squad, who found the equalizer just two minutes later and then scored the game winner with a mere minute, 39 seconds on the



Photos by GRAHAM PAINE

Bruce Hood Travel goalie Devon Medland showed a little body English during the weekend houseleague hockey championship at Memorial Arena. Above, Devon celebrates a goal. But this pre-novice netminder knows how to stay cool and collected, too. Note the leisurely point elsewhere and the ability to take five (bottom) when the opportunity comes up, as play moves to the opposite end of the rink.

clock. Matt Malone proved to be the hero of the game with the go-ahead goal. Assisting on both Malone's winner and teammate Jason Brooks' equalizer was setup man Daryll Brinke.

Scoring for the Little Firemen was Lindsay McFarlane while Mike Sullivan was between the pipes for Key Centre. Little Firemen coach Mark Langdon said he was impressed by how much his team had developed throughout the season, stating by the end of the year they were the most improved team in the league.

Championship

As We Grow 3, Hood Travel 1

Matt Binnington wasn't about to take any chances after scoring his team's go-ahead goal, so he decided to add some insurance with an empty netter in the dying minutes and lock up the win for his crew.

His game winning marker midway through the contest came on an upstairs wristshot. Graham Shard registered As We Grow's first goal while Graham Sharp counted Bruce Hood Travel's only marker. David Denisson and Jeff Hill each posted an assist for their respective teams while Jesse McConnell worked the net for the victors. "It was a hard-fought battle, right down to the wire. I was really pleased with how much the kids developed and how it all culminated into a great team effort today," said As We Grow skipper Wayne Flanigan.



Bantam

Hockey Moms 5, Knights of Columbus 1

After a solid opening frame, the Knights of Columbus didn't seem to have much left to fight off a determined Hockey Moms contingent. The Knights had dominated every event at the skills competition earlier in the week, but the Hockey Moms proved that collectively they were the more well-rounded team.

This was the second year in a row the Hockey Moms beat the Knights of Columbus in the finals. Last year, a much closer contest saw the Moms squeeze out a 4-3 win.

Jack Turner provided a near flawless performance between the pipes for the Moms while Justin Edwards and Brent Smith fired in two goals each to lead the attack. Also scoring was Mike Mallette while Ryan Munn counted two assists. Scoring the lone marker for the Knights was Dagnien Wentzell, assisted by Trevor Ayling.

Bantam Award Winners

| House League Team | M.I.P. (most improved) | M.S.P. (most sportsmanlike) |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Loblaws | Doug Larochelle | Richard Robertson |
| Hockey Moms | Adam Ripper | Michael Mallette |
| Future Stars | Graham Geerts | Josh Murray |
| Knights/Columbus | Trevor Ayling | Chris Tschirhart |
| Rep | | |
| Minor First Entry | Bryan Gent | Dan Bonham |
| Major First Entry | Paul Boaden | Bobby Hicks |
| Second Entry | John Richardson | Paul Hasselfeldt |

SKILLS - Top Shooter: Phil Drew (Knights of Columbus); **Top Goalie:** Ian McGonigle (Knights of Columbus); **Top Relay team:** Knights of Columbus.

Minor Novice

Kelsey's 3, Rebekah Lodge 1

Garrett Ferrier proved to be the key ingredient in Kelsey's Restaurant's victory. Lucky number seven potted a goal in each of the first two frames to lead his club to the championship title.

Teammate Sean McFadden sealed their opponents' fate with an empty net goal with 19 seconds remaining. Charlie Appleton

• see MINOR HOCKEY on page 18