

Sandstone truckers are just too slick for Oilers

After dropping a three-goal decision in their first meeting of the season, the Sandstone Transport AA midgets greased the Burlington Oilers in two straight exhibition games last week.

Milton followed up a 5-2 loss to the Oilers September 5 with a 6-1 pounding last Monday night at Memorial Arena. Two nights later they returned to Burlington and scored a 5-1 victory. Their back-to-back wins featured a 66-30 edge in shots on goal.

Bob McKnight and Jeff Seeds led the attack in Milton's latest outing with a goal and an assist each while Adam Rooke, Luc Redditt and Matt Peers registered the other singles. Cory Leigh, Jeff Mitchell, Brent Van Loosen and Ben Wilson picked up assists.

Wilson and Jeff Chaisson tallied twice in the truckers' home-ice triumph. Seeds and Rooke fired in one a piece with Mitchell

counted the only two assists.

Mitchell also managed to count one of Milton's two goals in their only loss so far this season. Recording the other was Leigh, who set up Mitchell's tally. Drawing assists on both goals was Steve Szafer.

Goaltending duties were split between 1996 candidates Rob Cornish, Kyle Donnan and Blair McTrach.



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Ready to 'run and gun'

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to The Champion

It's almost here — the start of another season of Milton Merchants hockey.

The players have been signed, a brand new coaching staff is in place and a solid 5-3 exhibition campaign wrapped up Sunday afternoon in Sturgeon Falls.

So in just two days time, they will begin regular season play with an 8 p.m. start at Memorial Arena against the Hamilton Kilty Bees. Having beaten them 8-5 and 10-4 in the pre-season, Milton heads into Friday's game as the heavy favorites.

And with one of the more talented rosters assembled, and certainly one of the most experienced, the Merchants hope to cause some heartache for more than just their steeltown opponents this season.

So now, with the clock quickly counting down to Friday's home opener, it's time to introduce the 1996/97 Milton Merchants lineup.

Guarding the Merchant cage this season will be 18-year-old John Lubera, recently acquired from the Burlington Cougars. Picked up in a deal for Erin Junior C forward Chris Healey, Lubera started last season with the OHL's Barrie Colts but hooked up with Burlington a few weeks

later.

In 19 games with the Cougars, he registered a goals-against average of 3.40. "Playing for a team that missed the playoffs last season, John obviously saw a lot of rubber and did a good job," said Merchants president Gregg Carrigan.

Backing him up, at least for the present, will be 17-year-old MTHL graduate Jamie Wenzel, who toiled with the North York Canadians last season and turned in a solid exhibition campaign this summer.

Providing the two with defensive assistance this season will be arguably the best blueline corp in the West Conference: The additions of proven Junior A defencemen Jeff White of Streetsville and T.J. Lee of Lindsay to an already solid unit comprising Rick MacDonald, Mark McPhail, Jeff McArthur and Bill Emra should see Milton post one of the lowest goals-against averages in the West.

While 19-year-old Lee is currently recovering from shoulder surgery, and will be out until mid-October, the Merchants have adequate replacements in Shawn Smith of the New Liskeard AAA Midgets, Tyler Zemlec of the local Halton Hurricanes and recently returning veteran

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Milton's Mark Wild may look like he's defying gravity, but he usually has both feet planted firmly on the ground.

For Mark Wild, it is always race vs. time

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to The Champion

The Olympic Games have been over less than two months and already Milton's Mark Wild is looking forward to the next ones.

The 21-year-old Bishop Reding graduate won't wait until 2000 in Sydney, Australia

— because his Olympic dreams are less than two years away, and his work towards them must begin now.

Wild is hoping to be one of five speed skaters representing Canada at the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagoya, Japan. While he's mere fractions of a second

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Kathryn Longley of Kalena Flowers took a mighty cut that put both the ball and its tee in motion during girls t-ball/rookie ball championship action Sunday at Sam Sherratt.

Balanced teams battle to the wire

The rain may have put a damper on things, but it didn't wash out festivities at the Sam Sherratt ball diamonds Sunday when the Milton girls t-ball and rookie teams celebrated their 1996 championship day.

Nail-biting endings were the trend of the day in the junior t-ball division. Two of the four contests finished in a deadlock while the other games were decided by a mere three runs.

M.R.L. Freight and Remax Miltonville couldn't decide much in a 28-28 tie. Jennifer Gadd and Amber Goulding picked up most sportsmanlike player awards for their teams.

Equally tight was a 29-29 final between Wickens Industrial and Vern's Industrial, who got home runs out of Elyssa Smelko, Robyn Wentzell and Jennifer Pickering. Pickering won the most sportsmanlike

player honor for her club while Khisten Antaya took home the award for Wickens.

Katie Wilson's homer wasn't quite enough to put her Shoppers Drug Mart crew past J. Scott Early in a 25-21 loss. Despite picking up most sportsmanlike player honors, Wilson would have probably preferred the victory. Megan Park was picked most sportsmanlike for J. Scott Early.

A Catered Affair outdistanced Hertz 33-30. The game's only homer was registered by Hertz' Amy Wilson, while Leah McNeill and Mellissa McKinnon drew sportsmanlike honors for their teams.

The competition was just as intense in the senior t-ball division, where after squeezing past Miller Custom Carpentry 30-29 in semi-final play, Zesta

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