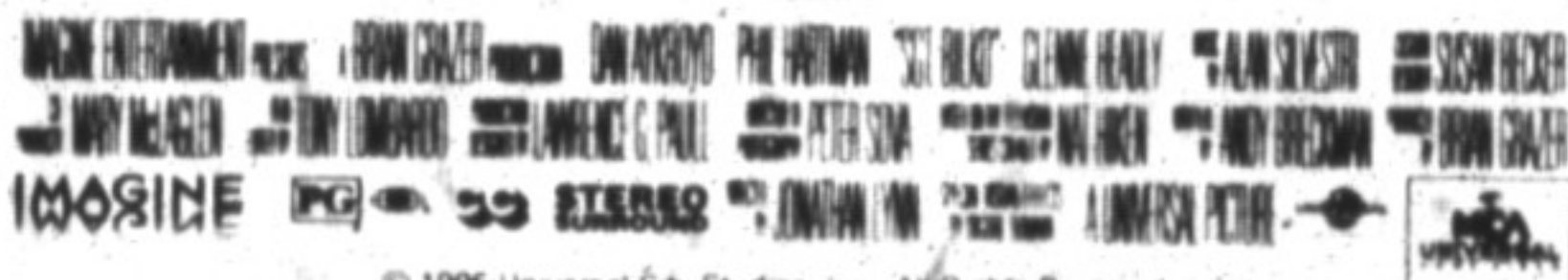


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Merchants beaten, still show depth

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
Special to the Champion

The Milton Merchants were short-staffed heading into Tuesday evening's road-trip to Mountain Arena, and found themselves on the short end of a 5-4 decision to the Hamilton Kilty Bees when it was all over.

With Cory Holland, Troy Walczak and Randy Stolec all finishing out their respective suspensions — and up-and-coming winger Doug Janjevich nursing a concussion suffered during Sunday's College Weekend game against Lindsay — the Merchants simply ran out of gas at crunch time.

This allowed Hamilton star Chris Stevenson to put one past goalie John Lubera around the midway mark of the third to break a 4-4 tie and score the win. It was payback for Milton's come-from-behind

victory last Friday in their home opener.

"We looked like a tired hockey team in Hamilton, one who had played three games in five nights and was missing a number of players," said team president Gregg Carrigan. "We had figured early on that Hamilton was going to be in the upper sector of teams in the league this season, so losing by one goal with some of our players out shows the kind of depth we have."

"Janjevich should be out another week or two but we'll have Holland, Walczak and Stolec back for Friday's game against Brampton."

Carrigan figures his club will have to make some improvements in its defensive game and toughness as well.

The return of Holland should help remedy the latter of his two concerns.

Smooth sailing

• Continued from SAILOR page 19

secure second overall. "There was a lot of light air so we weren't going as fast as usual. We normally keep racing when it rains but one of the days there was lightning so we had to dump our boats so we wouldn't get zapped," she recalled.

Since her second-place finish at the nationals, Taylor has won the St. Lawrence Valley Yacht Racing Association (SLVYRA) regatta and taken second-place honors at the Hudson Labor Day Regatta in Quebec.

She also enjoyed victories at the Lake Skiff Sailing Association Championships and the Quebec Youth Championships. In late July she had the distinction of being the top female competitor and third overall finisher at the Sail East Championships in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

Sailing, Taylor explained, takes a lot of "mental strength" as well as physical prowess. Races are anywhere from three to five nautical miles and changing wind conditions can often play havoc with one's game plan, so the ability to adjust is always a sailor's most effective weapon.

"You miss one wind shift and you can easily lose a race. Mental strength is especially important when there's not much wind and the race takes longer," she said.

Taylor has been sailing for five years and racing competitively for the past three. While she has enjoyed substantial success, her induction into the sport didn't happen on the best of circumstances. "My grandfather passed away and we inherited his boat at a yacht club in Montreal. I started taking lessons and immediately enjoyed the sport. Being a lifeguard helps as well, when your boat flips over you sometimes have to chase it down."

Taylor now spends much of her summer in Montreal. "My long-term goal is to qualify for the Olympics. I'll do the trials for 2000 but 2004 is when I'll probably be ready," Taylor said.

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