



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

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Shane Sullivan sees stars in his first local game

By STEVE LeBLANC / Special to The Champion

When Shane Sullivan heard he was coming to Milton, he knew he'd see some stars — just not the kind floating around his head.

Less than an hour after the 19-year-old defenceman hit the ice with his new team, he hit the ice — literally — and was rushed to the hospital with a concussion suffered Sunday afternoon in Oakville.

The former Lindsay Muskie received a deep forehead cut after leaving the penalty box during a second line brawl early in the second period. He skated over to Oakville's bench and challenged one of their fourth-liners, and was dumped on his bucket — with what many young fans likely recognized as a popular wrestling maneuver.

The Merchants' newest player found his way onto both the disabled and suspended list. The cobwebs will likely be gone long before a multi-game suspension ends, which will see him miss this Friday's tough home battle with Brampton and probably next Tuesday's match against second-place Bramalea.

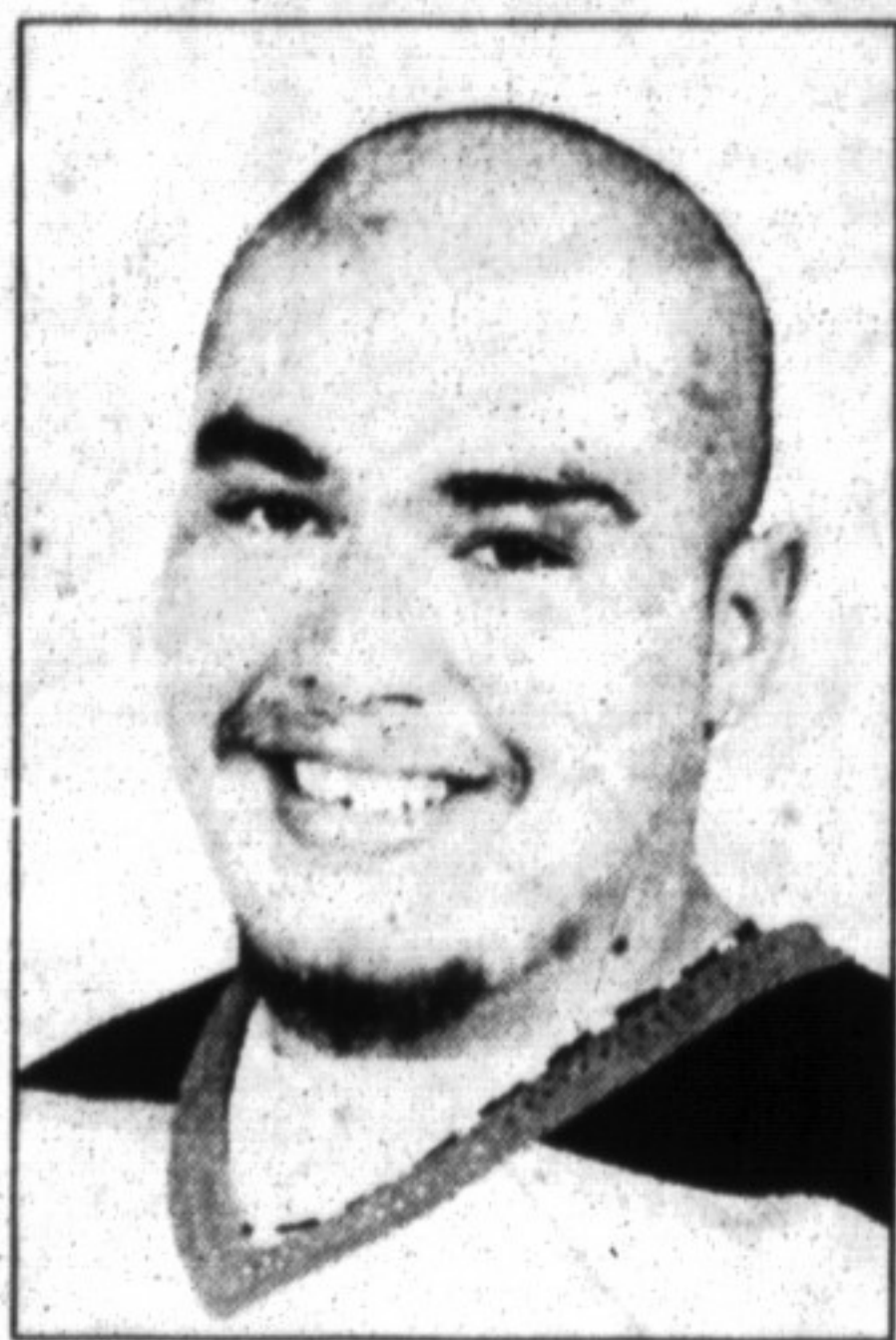
His suspension — plus those of head coach Marty Williamson, tough guy Cory Holland, defencemen Bill Emra and T.J. Lee and centre Steve French — were the more costly of the two losses Milton suffered Sunday, as they dropped a 6-5 overtime decision to the Blades.

The game was reminiscent of last season's bench-clearing brawl with Bramalea. The two line brawls — six minutes apart — featured seven fights and saw Sullivan, Holland, Emra, French, Trevor Downey, Travis Riffin and T.J. Lee take early showers. Goalie Denver England was heavily penalized for crossing centre-ice on both occasions, the second time to neutralize a double-team attack on Downey.

With defenceman Mark McPhail and Jeff McArthur serving out the final game of their two-game suspensions from last Tuesday's game in Hamilton, Milton was caught severely short of rearguards through the last 30 minutes.

They were also caught on a bad line change late in the third which resulted in Oakville's tying marker. From there, Jason Pinizzotto tucked a low backhand past England midway through the extra frame.

"We were disorganized in



Cory Holland

the first period and Denver really didn't have a very good game," said Williamson, who'll miss two games for Holland leaving the bench to take on Sullivan's assailant.

Scoring for Milton were Lee, Riffin, Darren "Mini" Haydar, Troy Walczak and captain Steve Clarke while Matt Van Arkel and Rich Williams drew two assists.

In their latest home-ice effort, Milton beat the Cougars and claimed a 12-2 victory Friday at Memorial. The win — their first in double-digit land — pushed their home record to 13-0.

Burlington netminder Jamie Van DeSpuyker earned a purple heart for facing over 50 shots on the night. The bulk of the sniper fire came from top scorers Van Arkel and Riffin — who turned in four and three-goal performances respectively. Van Arkel now has 30 goals to his credit while Riffin has 26.

Other standouts were Jeff Haydar with a pair of goals and an assist and Walczak with one goal and two helpers. Doug Janjevich played set-up man with four assists to go with his single tally while "Mini" Haydar collected three helpers. Steve French also scored.

Rookie netminder Jeremy Wenzel earned his sixth win with a sound, but relatively uneventful showing between the pipes.

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Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

E.C. Drury High School wrestlers (l-r) Chris Denich, Chad Merritt and Andy Wadson, seen here with coach Larry Jaraslowski (rear) are collecting a hefty medal haul already in the young season.

E.C. Drury wrestling team

New Sherriff in town; he's after gold

E.C. Drury High School's wrestling team captured six medals with some outstanding performances Saturday in Georgetown at the Rebel Rookie Tournament.

Eighteen Spartans tested their skills in Georgetown, with Kaegan Sherriff leading the way with his first career gold. Earning silver medals were Graham Carroll, Jay Mainprize and Bishop Reding's Jeremy Chuchmach.

Bronze medals were won by Sean Burnham and Andy Wadson, his third medal in as many tournaments. Ryan Faria placed fourth.

Three days earlier, Drury sent mainly rookies and sophomores to Burlington Central and still came away with a second-place team showing — just a handful of points behind the hosts, who entered their entire squad.

Top finishers were Blair Beaulieu, Nick Barkley, Frank Cavallo, John McCart, Chad Merritt and Adam Scott, who all struck gold. For Scott, it was his first career tournament title.

Rookies Chris Holmes and Chuchmach and veterans Jeff Meads and Trevor Petherick came away with silvers. Meads' efforts were particularly impressive, after sitting out the entire 1995/96 season.

Bronze medal winners were Sherriff, Darren Gallipeau and sophomore Brian Gent — who made his way into the top three for the first time in his career.

Jason Barrett, Justin Billington and Nick Greenland all placed fourth.

The Spartans will play host to roughly 300 grapplers next Wednesday during the annual Drury Invitational.

Memories bring new coach back to revive hockey at his old school

By STEVE LeBLANC
Special to The Champion

Part of the Milton District High School hockey team's past has come back to save its future.

The Mustangs were in critical condition last year, when a lack of interest forced the team to disband late in the season. While not exactly back to full strength just yet, MD seems to be on the road to recovery — thanks to the efforts of former player George Cescon.

"From what I understand there was a real lack of interest throughout the season and the team folded with just two games remaining. They were winless," said Cescon, who attended Milton District in the 1970s and helped their hockey squad win two East Halton titles.

"I live in Mississauga now but still keep in touch with how things are going at the high school through my parents. Bryan

Camani, then the head of physical education, offered me the coaching job at the end of the spring and I figured if no one else wanted it, I'd take over. I couldn't bear to see the team fold."

Cescon spent several weeks prior to training camp trying to rejuvenate interest in high school hockey at MD, and enlisted the help of enthusiasts John Ellison and Andrew Hartholt in his efforts.

"These guys helped me recruit other players. They're good hockey players to boot and I'll be looking for them to take on a leadership role this season," he said. He is assisted by coaches Phil Prestidge and Ryan McGill and trainer Murray Whittal.

Cescon has coaching experience to match his enthusiasm. He has been coaching in the Mississauga and Milton minor league systems for the past 10 years and also spent a brief stint with Burlington's Notre Dame High School.

Along with Ellison and Hartholt, whom

Cescon said should make the 'Stangs strong up the middle, MD has Mike Brown, Jamie Comba, Miro Koprnicky, Neil McDowell, Chris Mutcherson, Travis Rogers and Dan Smith on the forward lines while Jason Brownridge, Steve Ilczyszyn, Jeff McKee and Paul Van Cedar will pull blueline duty.

Jim Leworthy and Craig Robertson will split the netminding duties.

The two have seen plenty of rubber so far this season, as the Mustangs gave up 38 goals and lost their first four games. The team's first bright spot of 1996/97 appeared Thursday when they skated to a 2-2 draw with Burlington Central.

"I'm not exactly sure how long I'll coach the team, but I'd like to stick around for two or three seasons to help rebuild the program," said Cescon.

His 'Stangs will battle cross-town rivals E.C. Drury at Memorial Arena today (Wednesday) at 3:30 p.m.