

Smith is a standout in net against St. Catharines

A standout performance by goaltender Robert Smith and a two-goal afternoon by Matt Reed were the deciding factors in the Halton Lift Truck minor atom AA Winterhawks' 5-4 victory over top seeded St. Catharines last Saturday.

Reed slammed home the game-winner late in the third to give Milton their second win this season over St. Kitts. It came on an upstairs backhand, with Kyle Strong drawing an assist.

Reed also converted on a first-period breakaway to erase St. Catharines' initial lead, while Nathan Keith set up Daniel Lynch's tip-in and scored on his own breakaway early in the third. Feeding him a lead pass was David Tielemans.

Seth Ferguson put one in on an upstairs fake for Milton's other tally.

Smith came through in the clutch with a number of big saves in the third, and was provided with ample defensive assistance by blueline corps members Justin Deshaw, Mark Galick, Matt Lenardon and Robbie Wilson.

The 'Hawks earned three of four points in their next two outings, drawing even with Georgetown before edging Brampton.

Reed played hero again in the Brampton game, tucking in a low shot with nine seconds remaining to give Milton a 3-2 triumph. Setting him up with a great centering pass was Wilson.

Keith and Strong put their team ahead with first-period goals before Brampton answered back in the second. Drawing assists were Deshaw, Lynch and Tielemans while Corey

Rep Hockey

Clayton was sound in net and Ferguson, Galick and Evan Burrell turned in strong offensive efforts.

The 'Hawks let down their guard in the dying seconds of play and relinquished a one-goal lead in their 2-2 tie with Georgetown. Steve Ellison scored both goals for Milton with assists going to Lenardon and Jamie Webb.

Out of gas in long haul

The minor novice AA Winterhawks were quick out of the gate at the Chatham Tournament, but had little left in the tank for the long haul. Milton exhausted their offensive firepower in their opening battle with London — resulting in an 8-0 bombing — and had almost nothing left once they started facing the tougher teams.

They managed just four more goals in their last three outings, which cost them a pair of one-goal losses to Newmarket (2-1) and Windsor (1-0). They drew even at 1-1 with host Chatham.

While their offense couldn't go the distance, the blueline corps posted one of the best goals-against averages of the tournament. Turning in strong defensive work in front of steady netminder Brenden Duke were Ryan Black, Brian Evans, Joel Gard and Bobby MacDonald.

Ashley Rutz led the way with three goals while Scott McTrach tallied twice and Black, Matthew Binnington, MacDonald, Connor Mitchell and Geoff Strank added singles. Jacob Demarsh had five assists.

Bitter medicine dished out

Dishing out a generous helping of revenge for a previous 4-1 defeat, the Halton Hurricane major peewees handed St. Catharines their first season loss with a 3-0 shutout.

Nick Black, called up from Georgetown to

replace injured John Craig, put the 'Canes on the board while Ryan Busby provided the insurance marker, converting Brad MacDonald's pass-to cushion the lead.

With St. Catharines pressing in the third period, Josh Agar buried a hard wrist shot from Frank Fazio to seal the win.

Halton waited until almost the last possible moment to claim a 5-4 come-from-behind victory over Burlington in their next outing. Dave Taylor scored the game-winner with a mere 11 seconds remaining, after his teammates rallied from a 4-1 deficit with six minutes left to play.

McCann honoured at Beaver

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the championship. In the minor atom loop, the top three teams plus a wild card winner will advance to the playoffs. Teams from London, Mississauga, Orillia, Oshawa, Toronto, Windsor and even Chicago, Illinois will all be competing.

As an added highlight, a special skills competition will be held for the top shooters and goalies in each division. This competition will be held the first two days of the tournament. And as a special treat for parents and players, Sudbury sports photographer Ray Bernstein will once again make the trip south to shoot all the action.

The longtime tournament photographer will

display his work the last two days of the tournament, and parents and family members can purchase action shots of their son or daughter.

Whether they'll be up against four teams or seven, the Spectrum Airways minor bantam AA Winterhawks are one of Milton's best bets to claim a championship this month. Head coach Darren Rousselle will lead a thoroughly impressive squad, that now sports a near-flawless 28-0-1 record and recently won the Silver Stiek Tournament in Whitby. "I'm definitely looking forward to the Beaver Tournament. It would be great to win at home," said Rousselle.

For more information on the tournament, call Adrian Strank at 878-1096.

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