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Annual Beaver tournament full of action

Five out of six Milton teams went to playoffs

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

There was no shortage of action through the early stages of the 23rd annual Beaver Tournament, which got started Friday morning and ran through Monday evening.

Here's a rundown of how the host Milton teams fared through the round-robin portion of the tournament as of press time Monday morning. For a final wrap-up of playoff games, see Friday's paper.

TYKE

The Royal Canadian Legion Winterhawks met up with teams from bigger centres like Brampton and Burlington, but didn't let that stop them from posting an unbeaten record through their round-robin campaign.

A 4-3 squeaker over Burlington and a 5-3 triumph over Brampton, sandwiched a temporary offensive drought against Erindale, in which they skated to a scoreless draw. Nerves-of-steel Devin Medland backstopped Milton through all three games.

Michael Brown was the top sniper with three goals while Andrew Neuwald played set-up man, assisting on three markers and potting one himself. Daryl Binke and Jeffrey Lynch each tallied twice, with Cole Madansky recording one goal and one assist. Jonathan Monk anchored an impressive blueline unit, and was simply outstanding in Milton's win over Brampton.

Round-robin MVPs: Justin Bailey, Michael Brown, Devin Medland

MINOR NOVICE

A last-minute equalizer by Burlington's Ben Harper was the first of several heartbreaking moments for the Barrow Chiropractic Clinic 'Hawks, which went on to lose their next two outings and fall from playoff contention.

Milton had taken a 2-1 lead in the final three minutes of their opening bout with Burlington, only to have Harper sneak a second goal past netminder Brandon Duke with a mere 24 seconds remaining. From there they were blanked 4-0 by Orangeville — with call-up Greg Robertson guarding the cage — and lost 3-1 to Meadowvale.

Jacob Demarsh registered all three Milton goals with two set up by Matthew Price. Luc Hartwick and Geoff Strank turned in spirited performances while Ashley Rutz was a constant contributor to their defensive efforts.

Round-robin MVPs: Jacob Demarsh, Matthew Price, Ashley Rutz

MAJOR NOVICE

An offensive showcase by Elgin Reid and stellar defensive efforts combined to give the Wallace Pontiac Buick Winterhawks three straight victories. Sharp goaltending by Michael Binnington and James Connor didn't hurt matters either.

Milton allowed just two goals in wins over Georgetown (4-1), Oakridge (2-1) and Meadowvale (1-0). Reid tallied three times in round-robin play while Kyle Hearn and Nick Cheeseman added two each.

Cheeseman's first tally proved to be one of the most exciting of the tournament, as he redirected Nathan Grenke's blueline shot



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Windsor's goaltender saw plenty of rubber Sunday night in a 3-1 loss to the host minor atom Winterhawks.

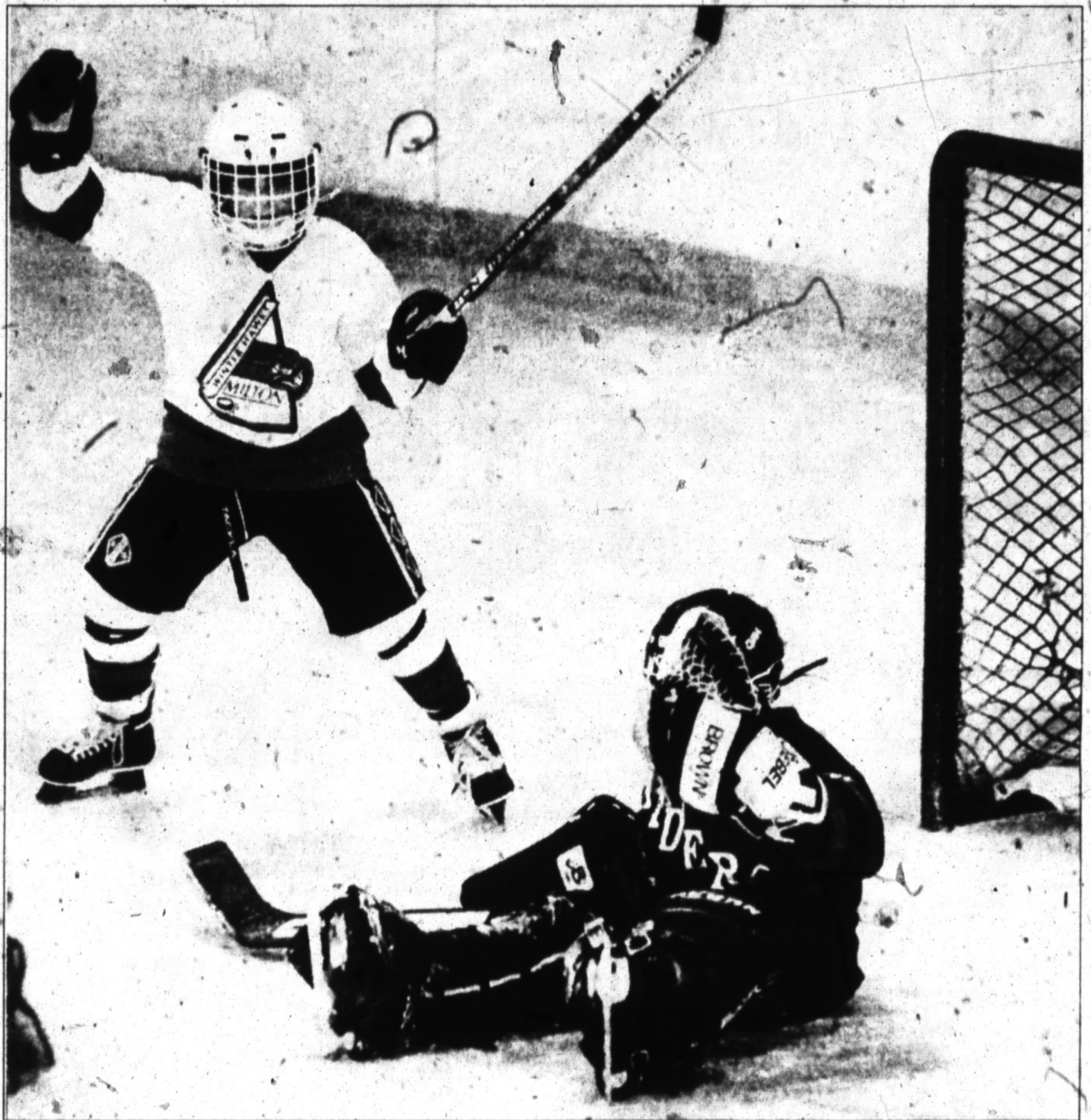


Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

A Milton major novice player celebrates his team's final goal in a 4-1 victory over Georgetown Sunday.

past Meadowvale's goalie half a second before the final buzzer.

Key defensive work by David Dimeo, Alex Berndt, Jeff Kitchen and Robert Hunt complimented Milton's strong netminding.

Round-robin MVPs: Michael Binnington, Kyle Hearn, Elgin Reid

MINOR ATOM

An exciting 3-1 victory over feisty Windsor capped off an unblemished 3-0 record for the Halton Lift Truck 'Hawks — which bombed Rochester, NY 7-0 and humbled Chinguacousy 5-1. They recorded the second most goals for and fewest against in the 12-team age group.

Mattie Reed and David Tielemans led the scoring parade with four goals each, while Nathan Keith tallied twice including the insurance marker in the win over Windsor. Reed scored the go-ahead goal. Singles came from Evan Burrell, Mark Galick, Steve Ellison, Matt Lenardon and Jamie Webb.

Corey Clarkson and Robert Smith comprised an impressive goaltending tandem with Robbie Wilson and Justin Deshaw providing ample defensive assistance, particularly in the high-intensity Windsor game.

Round-robin MVPs: Nathan Keith, Matt Lenardon, David Tielemans

MINOR PEEWEE

The Frontline Carrier Systems Winterhawks needed a late rally against Orillia and a forfeit victory with Kitchener to grab the second and final playoff spot in Division 2.

Down by two with under five minutes remaining in their opening contest, Kyle Burrell and Adam Bisenz buried timely wrist shots to draw even with Orillia at 3-3. Each helped set up the other's goal, with Bisenz' equalizer coming with 3:14 to go. Chris Hay had cut into Orillia's lead late in the second.

Milton won game two Saturday morning when Kitchener got caught in 401 traffic. They finished round-robin play by losing 2-0 to Georgetown.

Michael Fracangeli and Jason Strong worked the cage while Josh Caswell, Andrew McMaster and Scott McLaughlin were impressive in the Orillia bout.

Round-robin MVPs: Michael Fracangeli, Scott Nemeth

MINOR BANTAM

Having lost just a single game in both league and tournament play up to this point, it wasn't at all surprising that the powerhouse Spectrum Airways 'Hawks left a trail of devastation in their wake in four straight victories.

They pounded Glenview III, 8-0, downed Vaughan 4-1 and fought their way to exciting wins over Burlington (7-5) and Brampton (3-2). Jordan Austen provided enough footage for an entire highlight video, counting four goals and six assists. He collected two goals and three assists against Glenview and drew five helpers in the Burlington win. Jarrett Konkle and Matt Ventura were also outstanding with four goals each. Mike Austen and Derek Mewhinney tallied twice while Jacob Vanderbreggen scored once and added four assists. Josh Arnold and Chris Kovachik split the netminding duties.

Round-robin MVPs: Jordan Austen, Jarrett Konkle, Andrew Marshall, Jacob Vanderbreggen