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Elusive quest for Silver Stick

The International Silver Stick Tournament held a bittersweet ending for the Lions Club major bantam AA Winterhawks last month in Port Huron.

While bowing out to the eventual champions, Michigan's Sault Ste. Marie, a one-goal decision left them wondering if the coveted 'Silver Stick' had been theirs for the taking.

"There's two schools of thought in a case like this. One is the positive outlook that we lost to the best, but on the other hand if we had worked a little harder we could have won the whole thing," said manager James Heffron, whose team qualified with a silver medal performance at the November Silver Stick Regional in Clarington.

Milton provided the Soo with perhaps the strongest competition of the tournament, and in fact led their final round-robin tilt until late in the third. The 1-1 deadlock was broken in overtime.

Trevor Saliba worked the cage for the 'Hawks, with Jon Sprenger registering their lone tally in the opening frame.

Two well-rounded efforts produced 4-1 and 3-1 wins over Detroit, Michigan and Vail, Colorado respectively in early tournament play.

The Lions jumped out to a quick three-goal lead in game one — thanks to Sprenger, Dan Bonham and Jason Ford — and hung on for the victory. Saliba was sharp between the pipes.

The big line of Chris Bramwell, Paul Pento and Kevin Heffron, combined for a pair of first-period goals to help dump Vail. Goaltender Jamie Funnell turned aside 21 shots, where his teammates managed only a dozen.

Sweet revenge for Sandstone

The Sandstone Transport AA Midget Winterhawks, served up a generous helping of revenge to their Vanier counterparts recently at the Gloucester Tournament.

Milton took a 3-1 loss to Vanier in their final round-robin tilt, but turned the tables 19 hours later for a 5-1 rout in the championship match. Both teams won their respective divisions.

Jeff Seeds held the hot stick for the 'Hawks with a third-period hat-trick while Jeff Chaisson helped set up all three goals. Steve Szafer and Adam Rooke pumped in second-period markers after a scoreless opening frame. Assists went to Cory Leigh, Paul Loader and Ben Wilson, with netminder Kyle Garon stopping 20 of 21 shots.

A somewhat fatigued Milton crew registered just 17 shots and a

Rep Hockey

single goal in their initial bout with Vanier, an Ottawa-area team significantly more rested.

Leigh put his club ahead in the first, only to have Vanier even things up a mere 28 seconds later. Both the game-winning goal and insurance tally came in the third.

The local truckers came out flat in game one — due in part to a long drive north — and fell 3-2 to host Gloucester. Their desire and energy returned from that point on, and helped them dump West Ferris 5-1 and USA's Morgantown 6-0.

Garon earned the shutout against Morgantown while goaltending partner Blair McTrach put forth a near-flawless performance in game two.

Seeds' early round-robin output included four goals and five assists, with Szafer also tallying four times and adding two assists. Chaisson's play making role began early. He collected four assists in the first three games and added one goal.

Leigh, Rooke, Wilson and Dan McDuffe contributed with one goal a piece.

Price pots a pair to keep Milton alive

Matthew Price played hero this weekend, firing two goals to keep his minor novice AA Winterhawks alive in their best-of-five OMHA series with Oakville.

The Bargain Tire-sponsored crew fought off elimination with a 3-1 victory. They now trail the series two games to one. Price notched both the game winner and the insurance marker while Brenden Duke worked the cage.

Jacob Demarsh gave his team an initial lead with an unassisted goal seven seconds into the game. Connor Mitchell set up both of Price's scores.

Milton improved to 3-1 in their Tri-County post-season, with a 5-0 rout of Brampton. Duke was between the pipes for the shutout.

Demarsh turned a hat-trick in this one with Price and Scott McTrach adding singles. Jordan Gleed drew a pair of helpers with McTrach, Mitchell, Ryan Black and Brian Evan counting one assist a piece.

Minor atoms in tough

A third-period comeback didn't quite materialize for the Halton Lift Truck minor atom AA Winterhawks Thursday at Alcott Arena — where they fell 5-4 to the Georgetown Raiders.

The loss, which followed a more effective 2-1 rally in game two, put Milton's OMHA playoff hopes in

serious jeopardy. They trailed the best-of-five series two games to one prior to last night's (Monday) tilt at Memorial. Should they have survived, a series clincher will go Friday night in Georgetown.

Matt Reed tallied twice with one down the stretch in Thursday's defeat. His crew drew even early in the third, only to see the Raiders sink three more past goalkeeper Robert Smith.

They fought back with two in the final minute of play, but couldn't force overtime. Contributing with singles were Jamie Webb and David Tielemans — who added two assists.

Tielemans provided the heroics in game two. He beat the Raiders' netminder with an upstairs wrist shot — that just trickled over the line — in the second minute of sudden-death to give the 'Hawks a 2-1 victory. Webb forced the extra frame with a third-period wrap-around. Milton played "in your face" hockey to hold Georgetown to a single goal.

Corey Clarkson was sharp in the cage, with key defensive help from Mark Galick and Matt Lenardon. Seth Ferguson, Daniel Lynch and Nathan Keith posted assists.

Pontiac goes into overdrive

The Wallace Pontiac major novice AA Winterhawks knocked off Brampton with authority earlier this month, with a 5-0 shutout at Memorial Arena. The victory put the final nail in Brampton's coffin in a three-game sweep of their OMHA playoff series.

A total team effort was turned in for the series clincher, as five different Milton players sank goals and four more recorded assists.

Denting twine were Elgin Reid, Nick Cheeseman, Matt Chuchmach, Scott Colhard and Kyle Hearn. Setting them up were Clayton Holman, Rob Hunt, Chris Pedulla and Alex Berndt. Mike Binnington earned the shutout.

The 'Hawks followed up with the consolation title at the St. Thomas AA Tournament.

A brief scoring lapse cost them a 2-1 overtime loss to Newmarket, last year's provincial champs, in game one. Reid posted the only tally for his crew.

From there, Milton took out their frustrations and buried their next two opponents by a combined 9-1 count.

A 4-0 margin of victory gave them the consolation trophy against Wexford. Cheeseman led the attack with two goals, with Berndt and Reid adding singles.

Hearn tallied twice in game two, as Milton dumped London 5-1. Reid, Chuchmach and Rob Hunt rounded out the scoring.

Community Sports Calendar

Attention all Sports Organizations!
To Place Your Upcoming Event
Phone 878-2341 Fax 878-4943

Tuesday, February 18
Milton Merchants Junior A Hockey PLAYOFFS
8:00 Streetsville at Milton

Monarch Basketball House League
6:30 Milton Chrysler vs Karmax
Retro Canada vs Key Centre
7:30 Dominos vs Wallace
Dufferin vs Satelek

Thursday, February 20
Monarch Basketball House League
6:30 Karmax vs Twiss Fuels
Key Centre vs GSS
7:30 Wallace vs State Farm
Satelek vs Charley Fitzwhiskey's

Friday, February 21
Milton Merchants Junior A Hockey PLAYOFFS
8:00 Streetsville at Milton

Sunday, February 23
Milton Merchants Junior A Hockey PLAYOFFS
1:00 Milton at Streetsville

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