



Steamer goalie Paolo Zulian prepares to smother a loose puck during Milton's 4-2 win over Barrie Thursday at Barrie. Steamers had a case of *deja vu* when Barrie won in overtime Friday to even the series at a game apiece.

Series looks very familiar as Steamers, Colts all tied up

Followers of Milton Steamers might be excused if they're beginning to think this year's playoff series between Barrie Colts and Milton resembles last year's series.

For starters, Milton won the first game in somewhat of a surprise by a 4-2 score Thursday at Barrie. Ditto for 1983.

Secondly, their second match-up Friday went into overtime and — you guessed it — Barrie won 4-2 at Memorial Arena. Last year, Colts won three overtime games to win the series.

With new coach Gary Hudson employing a simple system, Steamers dominated the opening match-up and were full marks for the win. Strong Barrie netminding, especially in the opening frame, prevented Milton from winning the second game out-right.

The series picks up Thursday in Barrie (7:30 p.m.) with the fourth game back at Memorial Arena Friday at 7:45 p.m. The fifth game will go Sunday at 7:30 p.m. If further games are needed, they'll go Monday at 8:30 p.m. in Milton and Tuesday at 8:30 p.m. in Barrie.

Hudson said the key to the opening win was in their simple approach.

"We're not going to try anything fancy," he said. "All we did was get the puck out of our end as fast as possible and take as many shots at their goalie as possible."

The strategy worked successfully. Three Milton goals in the opener resulted from Colt miscues around the Barrie goal. The fourth

Milton goal, by Jeff Martin, broke Barrie's back and resulted from a mistake in communication between Barrie goalie Eric Watson and a defenceman. Martin tapped home the free puck into the empty goal.

Steamers should have run up the score after two periods although the club did jump into a 4-1 lead. Several Steamers, especially Brad Warden, missed several glorious scoring chances.

John Staios, Bob Mills, Mark Haskett and Martin scored for Milton. Stewart Smith scored twice for Barrie.

In the second game, Steamers dominated the early going but couldn't get on the board. Colts scored once near the end of the first and again early in the second. Steamers replied with power-play goals in the second and third periods to force overtime. But has been their tradition, Colts scored early in overtime and again with a minute left to seal the win.

Off the Track: Steamer defenceman Ric Serafini has been suspended by the OHA. North York Civics major midgets are seeking compensation for his play last year with the club.

Bob Landry missed both games and may be gone for a while. He has a case of mononucleosis. John Staios fractured his thumb in the first game and missed the second match. He should be ready Thursday.

Because of the injuries to defencemen, Randy Perusello played all but one shift of the third period in the opener. Claude Bertrand hurt his shoulder in the last game of the season but could be back in two weeks.

OMHA recap

Wheelers roll over G'town

For the third straight year, Milton Fifth Wheel major bantams will head for Owen Sound after beating rival Georgetown in their hard-fought best-of-five OMHA final series three games to none.

Wheelers completed the sweep with a come-from-behind 5-3 victory Tuesday at Memorial Arena to complete the domination with which Wheelers have held over Georgetown for the past two years.

But it wasn't necessarily easy. In the final game, Georgetown jumped in front 1-0 midway through the first period only to see Wheelers tie the score when Jason Pascoe scored from Brett Gervais.

The pattern was repeated in the middle frame when, after a Georgetown tally, Rob Wilson evened the count with a goal from Scott Ellwood and Scott Hilson.

The third period followed the same routine. Georgetown scored a go-ahead goal at 6:45. A minute later Wayne Rivers evened the score from Ellwood and then one minute later it was Hilson's unassisted tally which put Milton ahead for just the first time in the game. Pascoe closed out the scoring at the 1:03 mark with a short-handed goal from Rivers.

Surge pushes Blades to win

After getting a brief scare, Milton Banvil Blades minor bantams rallied to record a 7-2 win over Georgetown taking their best-of-five series in three games straight. Blades now meet Owen Sound with the first game slated for Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Arena.

Georgetown threw a knot into Milton's plans by scoring the first two goals of the game just three and a half minutes into the contest.

However, Paul Allen halved the difference when he scored from Bryan Haringa and Doug Poulton later in the frame.

Blades salted the win away by scoring five goals in the second period and adding another early in the final frame. Matt McCandless fired two goals and added two assists while Haringa added a goal and three assists. Philip Leach, Chris Harrison and Andrew DeFranceco added one each.

Medics startle Dundas 4-1

Continuing its hard-driving play in OMHA playdowns, Milton minor atom Docs & Dents surprised Dundas with a well-earned 4-1 win to take the opening game of their best-of-five final qualifying series Sunday in Dundas.

The series resumed in Milton last night (Tuesday) with the third game slated for tonight at 6:30 p.m. at Dundas. The fourth game, if necessary, goes back here at Memorial Arena Sunday at 2 p.m.

Medics got some great goalkeeping from Chris Heipel who blocked 14 of 15 Dundas drives. The loss was just Dundas' third of the year and first against any Tri-County opponent. The other losses were to Mississauga Braves and Stoney Creek.

Medics started the game in control dominating the opening frame which resulted in goals by Robert Dero and Jim O'Driscoll. Jamie Janjevich and Mike McPhail assisted on the first goal while Brian Mallany earned an assist on O'Driscoll's rocket from the point.

The tempo evened in the middle frame with Dundas closing to within one.

However, great penalty killing in the third period by Janjevich and McPhail produced two short-handed goals to stifle any Dundas threat. Janjevich notched both goals picking the top corner with a backhand on the first before pushing home a loose puck after his first shot was stopped to cap the win.

Late goals put Legion behind

In a typically close-fought game against archrival Georgetown, Milton Legion major atoms dropped the first game of a best-of-five OMHA quarter-final series by a 3-1 margin Sunday in Georgetown.

Georgetown took a 1-0 lead early in the second period on a short-handed goal. This score held up until halfway through the third period. After some sustained pressure, Legion's Damien Dubien scored, stuffing in a goal after taking a perfect pass from Robbie Crowe.

With the score tied 1-1, Legion put good pressure in the Georgetown end but couldn't capitalize on their chances. The goaltending was excellent at both ends of the rink with Legion's Ryan Peddie coming up with some big saves throughout the game.

Georgetown scored with five minutes to go from a goal-mouth scramble, then sealed the win with a goal with 34 seconds remaining. The series resumes Wednesday at 6:30 p.m. at Memorial Arena.

Champion Sports

Wednesday, February 15, 1984

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Rowley draws rave review

Some spectacular shot-making and all-around strong play has served notice to the Canadian curling community that the Milton curling team of Ron Rowley, Fred Bell, Craig Thomas and Loris Faggion is ready to join the illustrious fraternity.

In their first shot at the provincial curling championships over the last week at Peterborough, Rowley's rink drew rave reviews and came through with great games against some of the best curlers in the world.

Rowley finished the 10-team event with a 4-5 record, missing by just one game at a chance in the playoffs. Ed Werenich's Toronto Avonlea rink, current world champions, won the event beating Bob Turcotte's Oshawa rink 6-5 in an extra end.

Rowley's best game might just have been played against Werenich although the Avonlea rink won 8-5 scoring three points in the ninth end.

Rowley matched Werenich end for end for the first eight ends and would have led at that point except for a rock catching a hair in the sixth end and allowing Werenich three points.

Werenich and vice Paul Savage had many kind things to say about the Milton rink.

"This is the best game we've been in in months," said Savage. "They're making a lot of good shots."

Werenich echoed his teammate's words. "It's been so long since we've had to play such a tough game," he said. "They play so aggressively we couldn't beat them on strategy like we do to so many other teams."

"I don't know where they've been hiding. We've won \$90,000 in cash spiels this year and if they're half as good they'll win \$45,000. Ron throws as good a rock as anyone I've seen. He knows the game better than 90 per cent of the competitive curlers we've played."

"Another thing, it was fun playing with them. They're such an easy going bunch of guys."

Werenich, a Scarborough firefighter said he'll probably meet them again.

"They have an easy inter-division compared with the rinks in Toronto. They should be here every year."

"Most teams can be beaten on strategy. You can lure them into making a mistake. But these guys kept coming at us. They took the chances."

Similarly, Rowley said he knew his team had played well although they'd lost.

"We were loose. We knew we had to come up with one of our best games of the year."

Overall, Rowley said he was happy with the performance of his team in their first shot at competition of this calibre.

"I'm quite pleased with the way we played. We played three really good games against Werenich, Altenhof and Turcotte."

Werenich finished first in the round-robin with a 7-2 record. Mike Altenhof, of Windsor finished second in the round-robin while Turcotte went to the final before losing to Werenich.

"I was quite impressed with the kind of talent up there," added Rowley. "We weren't intimidated, though. We were constantly chasing them. You can't give them anything. Our guys couldn't have played any better."

Most noteworthy was the number of Milton spectators. They were, by far, the loudest cheering section of any. Prior to their game with Werenich, a cheer of "give me an M, give me an I," etc., rang out from the crowd. Many officials remarked on the cheering for the Milton team.

Throughout the tourney, Rowley maintained a .500 mark until Friday when he lost twice to drop his record to 3-4. Included in the losses was a defeat to Bill Creber's Toronto Tam Heather rink. It

was their only win of the event and effectively damaged Rowley's hopes for a shot in the playoffs. All teams with 5-4 records moved into a playoff of one sort or another.

The Milton club began by knocking off Russ Howard's Midland rink 11-5. On the same day (Wednesday), Lovel Lord, of RCN Ottawa, scored one coming home to win 7-6.

On Thursday, Rowley lost 6-4 to Bruce Delaney's Ottawa Hyland's rink. He bounced back with wins of 7-4 over Pete Mellor, of Durham, and 7-6 over Turcotte.

On Friday, Creber and Werenich (the best and the worst) won over Rowley. Rowley could have still advanced to the playoffs with two wins Saturday but saw his chances end when Brian De Rooy, of Chatham won 8-3. In a key match for Altenhof, Rowley stopped the Windsor rink from claiming a share of first place with an easy 8-3 win.

Despite the provincial accomplishments of the club, the rink still hasn't decided whether to make a genuine shot at all the cash spiels.

"Sometime before the end of winter," said Rowley, "we'll have to sit down and decide whether or not we want to make a commitment to enter the cash circuit. We'll have to decide if we're ready to play. We've all got young kids at home and we might decide to wait a few years. It's something we'll need everyone for. We can't pick up substitutes if someone can't make a spiel."



Taking aim is Milton skip Ron Rowley at the Labatt Tankard provincial curling championships Friday at Peterborough. Rowley surprised several top rinks with great performances and narrowly missed qualifying for the playoffs.

Photos by Jon Borgstrom



Craig Thomas (foreground) and Loris Faggion sweep the rock into the house during action against Bill Creber of Toronto Tam Heather in the Milton club's poor performance at the Tankard. The Milton rink lost 9-6 giving Creber his only win of the event.



The world champion and maybe one in the future ready for a shot. Milton skip Ron Rowley lines up a shot while Ed Werenich, current Air Canada Silver Broom holder, watches. Werenich had many kind things to say about the Milton rink.