

Blacker ready to backstop Ontario at World Under-17 Hockey Challenge

34 weeks later, with the IceHawks riddled with injuries and inconsistency in net, Milton summoned Blacker for his junior debut. He stopped 46 of 48 shots in an overtime victory over the Toronto Jr. Canadiens, showing the Broncos were wise in locking up the netminder before others discovered him.

Over the next month, the IceHawks called upon Blacker four more times. He posted a 2.35 goals-against average and a .941 save percentage, going 3-1-1, including a 42-save shutout against the St. Michael's Buzzers, who

went on to win the league championship.

This year, Blacker has continued to show his cameo was no fluke. He was one of only two 16-year-olds named to the Canada East team for the World Jr. A Challenge and was again in rare company, as one of only two non-OHL players to be named to Ontario's team for the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge next week in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia.

"He puts an awful lot of work into it," said Ted Blacker. "He doesn't know how to do anything half way."

"A lot of it comes from my parents," Blacker said. "It makes me want to work harder to be the best at what I do, whether it's hockey or school."

And it seems the harder he has to work, the better Blacker is. In 10 games this season (as of holiday deadline Friday) in which he has faced 39 or more shots, Blacker is 8-2-0 with a 2.63 average and .940 save percentage, better than his overall marks of 11-9-0, 3.38 and .910.

Blacker says the opportunity Milton has given him to handle a heavy workload as a 16-year-old has helped his development. But he also credits his dad, who has always been there to offer advice.

"If I have a bad game, he's there to help me," he said. "It's nice to have another goalie in the family. He can relate to what I'm going through, because he's been through a lot of it himself. He knows what I'm feeling in certain situations. A lot of my success, I owe to him."

When Blacker joins Western Michigan for 2015/16, he'll have another strong presence to help him achieve his goals. The Broncos are coached by Andy Murray, who spent 11 years behind an NHL bench as head coach for the Los Angeles Kings and St. Louis Blues.

In the meantime, Blacker will continue to develop his game and show that following in his father's footsteps wasn't such a bad idea after all.

Minor bants claim Lake Placid tourney title

Showcasing their authority at both ends of the ice, Milton's AA minor bantams reeled off five straight wins to lay claim to the recent Lake Placid Challenge Cup.

Camdin Kingsbury led the Winterhawks to the title win, tallying twice in a 3-1 decision over Rochester in their earliest clash of the season, which started at 7:15 a.m. on the same surface as the legendary Miracle on Ice. Benjamin Botelho got Milton on the board

near the end of the first period.

Three goals in the second half of play powered the Winterhawks to a 4-1 semifinal win over the Boston Patriots, while overall the champs outscored their opposition a 24-4.

That was thanks to some solid team play and stellar goaltending from Luke Crowley and Brayden Wesseling. Michael Scarfone and Tessaun Chant were the offensive cornerstones of the weekend.



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SPARTAN SPECTATOR

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December is the month of giving, and the students of Craig Kielburger Secondary School haven't fallen short of that. This year, a wide range of school groups came together as a unified family to support members of our local community through an event called Three Weeks of Giving.

The Kindness Club (Friends Of Rachel) launched the event in a cause that Spartans hold dear to their hearts. Throughout the week, students were asked to bring in new toys to help support Troy's Diner's annual campaign called Troy's Toy Drive. These toys would later be donated to children in need. Even Milton Transit got into the holiday spirit as they drove students to and from Troy's Diner to deliver the 200 toys CKSS collected.

The school began to get into the holiday spirit as the Christian Student Association took on the second initiative. From onesies to plaid

pants, the group collected all types of pajamas as a part of their campaign called Holly Jolly Jammie Day. The pajamas collected would later be sent to the Salvation Army.

For the last week of this successful event, Youth in Action have decided to continue their efforts and raise money for the school's Adopt a Village in Asemko, Ghana. All throughout the week staff and students will be asked to donate spare change on their way to school.

Three Weeks of Giving has given staff and students a chance to contribute to our local community. No matter how busy and hectic our lives may seem, we're all a big family that genuinely care about each other. As a token of our gratitude, CKSS recently hosted its annual Christmas Buffet that was enjoyed by all!

Happy Holidays!

Craig Kielburger Secondary School