

Sr. cagers win

Glen Faulkner and Glen Dredge had 16 points apiece to lead Milton District High School senior Mustangs to victory Friday in Georgetown. The Milton cagers came from behind to defeat Rebels 47-37.

The win gave Milton a split in last week's action. Oakville's Queen Elizabeth Park defeated Milton 38-28 on Jan. 9. It also gave Mustangs a little breathing space.

"That was an important game for us," pointed out Milton coach Regan Hefferman. It means we could make the fourth playoff spot and it means we don't have to go into any games with a 'must-win' situation.

Mustangs swept both White Oaks and Georgetown in recent competition.

Friday Georgetown owned a 17-16 lead at the half following a seesaw battle. But Mustangs came back to pull ahead 27-25 by the end of the third quarter. The did solid work on defence to guard that lead. The gap between the two teams stood at 10 points for most of the final quarter, and that's the way it ended.

Faulkner, the hustling point guard who often gets in foul trouble because of his tight covering style, hung in for the entire contest. "That meant that in the final quarter we could press, and he had a couple of turnovers that were converted for baskets," Hefferman pointed out.

Midgets nipped by one

Mustang midget coach Bob Neshevich stuck his hands in his pockets and said "I hate losing like this." His red face betrayed his anger as much as the tone of his voice as he watched a game his squad had in hand slide into a defeat at Georgetown.

Mustangs lost 28-27 when Rebels rallied in the second half of Friday's game and then pulled off the narrow victory with less than a minute remaining in the contest.

Milton led 27-26 prior to that last minute. The teams used time-outs to plan strategy and following that Rebels drove into the Milton zone quickly to score and take the lead with 34 seconds left.

Milton organized two desperation drives after that but Rebels hung tough on defence and Milton couldn't get organized in the attacking zone.

"I thought we had two or three bad calls at bad times," Neshevich said. "Particularly that intentional foul call on Andrew Wilson. I don't think that was intentional. But the kids stopped working. They got overconfident and we blew it."

"We were down 13 at the half. I think the kids really earned it," said Georgetown coach Tom Hower. "At first we let them run it up but then we switched to a zone defence and our guys took it away from them."

Mike Johnson led Milton scorers with 10 points, Neshevich praised the defensive work of Rudy Tilstra. Friday Milton takes on Loyola at Milton.



Peter Roser

Milton junior Mustangs had a tough week in high school basketball action, losing to both Queen Elizabeth Park and Georgetown.

Mustangs dropped a 66-51 decision to Rebels at Georgetown Friday and on Jan. 9 Oakville handed Milton a 62-54 defeat.

The losses leave Milton with two wins on the season and three losses. Mustang coach

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Out in the cold



An embarrassing and inconvenient thing happened at Memorial Arena Saturday. A group of visiting rep players came from Orangeville and arrived too late for their allocated ice time. The 45-minute drive was wasted. The game had to be rescheduled.

It turned out that there had been a slip-up at the Orangeville end. The Orangeville execs had apparently been informed on Nov. 19 but they had neglected to pass the information on to Don Wellington and his pee-wee reps. So the incident was settled amicably amidst apologies. But right after it happened another ongoing drama, which has yet to be settled either amicably or otherwise, took centre stage.

Joe Auger's Milton bantam reps were set to take the ice against Streetsville as various parents looked on. Among those parents were Bruce Mead and Merrill House. They had come to watch what they consider to be a rarity, their kids playing, or even practising, at a reasonable hour.

"We sent the Milton Minor Hockey Association two letters," Mead said. "What we're saying is that the ice time is being mis-appropriated. We went four weeks without a practice over the holidays. And there are no reasons."

Not so, according to Milton Minor Hockey Association president Terry Brandt. Brandt said the parents had filed a letter in November protesting and an additional one last week.

"We replied to the first letter and the second one was dealt with Tuesday," Brandt said. On Tuesday the team was given three more ice-hours.

"What they're doing now is giving us undesirable ice time," Mead countered. "We're getting crappy ice times. It's gotten to the point now where we have four kids seriously considering leaving Milton to play elsewhere. These people (MMHA) are not showing a concern about what happens to this team."

"There's nothing we can do to stop them from leaving," Brandt said. But he also gave the distinct impression that the parents' objections were out of proportion to the problem.

"I feel they probably have a legitimate beef somewhere down the line. We probably owe them some ice time. But nobody gets prime time all the time, and particularly not for practices. If they feel that the (new) ice time they got is undesirable, well maybe it is. But I've had seven 6 a.m. practices this year (Brandt coaches pee-wees). And they had one 6 a.m. practice where no coaches showed up."

"They went without practice because they rescheduled three games," Brandt added. "But that's not necessarily their fault."

"We came out of try-outs down in ice time," Mead countered.

Not too long ago, my predecessor, Mike Boyle, tackled the thorny subject of contact versus non-contact in Milton Hockey League play. As most local fans know, this is the first year the league has been non-contact. It is an experiment.

The league manager, John McLean, is in favour of non-contact. Others are not. The experiment has had time to develop and it's worth noting the opinions and insights of some participants.

"Let me say first that I don't address this subject lightly. I can remember the league from when players used to tussle at Memorial Arena. I saw it grow and become more violent, with sticks swung like helicopter blades at throat level. With serious fistfights. With fans taunting players they had grown up with, needing them where it stung most because they knew their weak spots. I remember Rick Bridgman getting his teeth knocked out, the Wally Mahnkne-Marty Cairns fight and I am familiar with last year's Volpe incident (an affair that landed in court).

"I'm in favour of contact," said Haggart Crane Service coach Mark Grenke. Grenke's squad would probably have the most to gain from that change. They are more successful when they can play a physical game. "Non contact makes it a hell of a lot harder on defence."

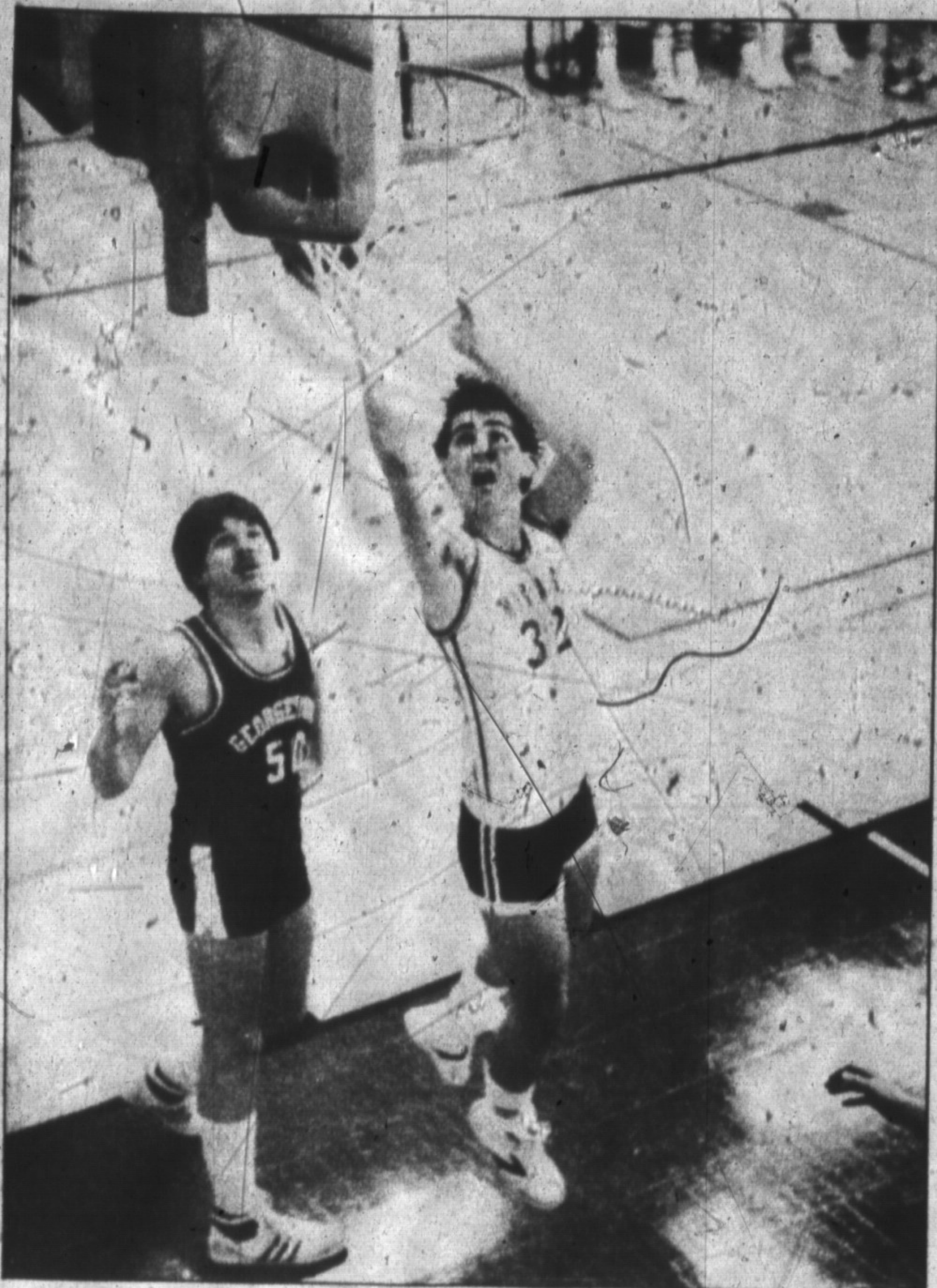
That last statement gets an endorsement from Century 21 Golden Hawks defenceman Brett Patterson, who at 220 lbs. of muscle may have a vested interest in contact hockey.

Patterson said he was more concerned about the game than the inability to use his physical assets.

"All they (the opposition) have to do is put a couple of guys in front of the net and all you can do is pick their sticks up. It's a lot harder. I'm even using my stick more. I never swung a stick before but that's the only way you can stop them."

Hawks goalie Mike Shepherd is equally frustrated but more fearful. "In front of the net is definitely where the problem is," he said. "You might as well put a stick of wood in the net. And someone's going to get hurt. When you get a slapshot from a John Leoprich or a Jim Cartwright and you're screened like that. Well, if you get hit in the throat..."

"They've got to bring contact back," concurred Hawks forward Paul McCann. "There should be no hitting from behind but they've got to put contact back in. Eighty per cent of these guys have played some fairly decent hockey and I'd say they want it. Those 20 per cent who don't, well you can get someone else to take their place."



Glen Dredge goes for the hoop in senior basketball action Friday.

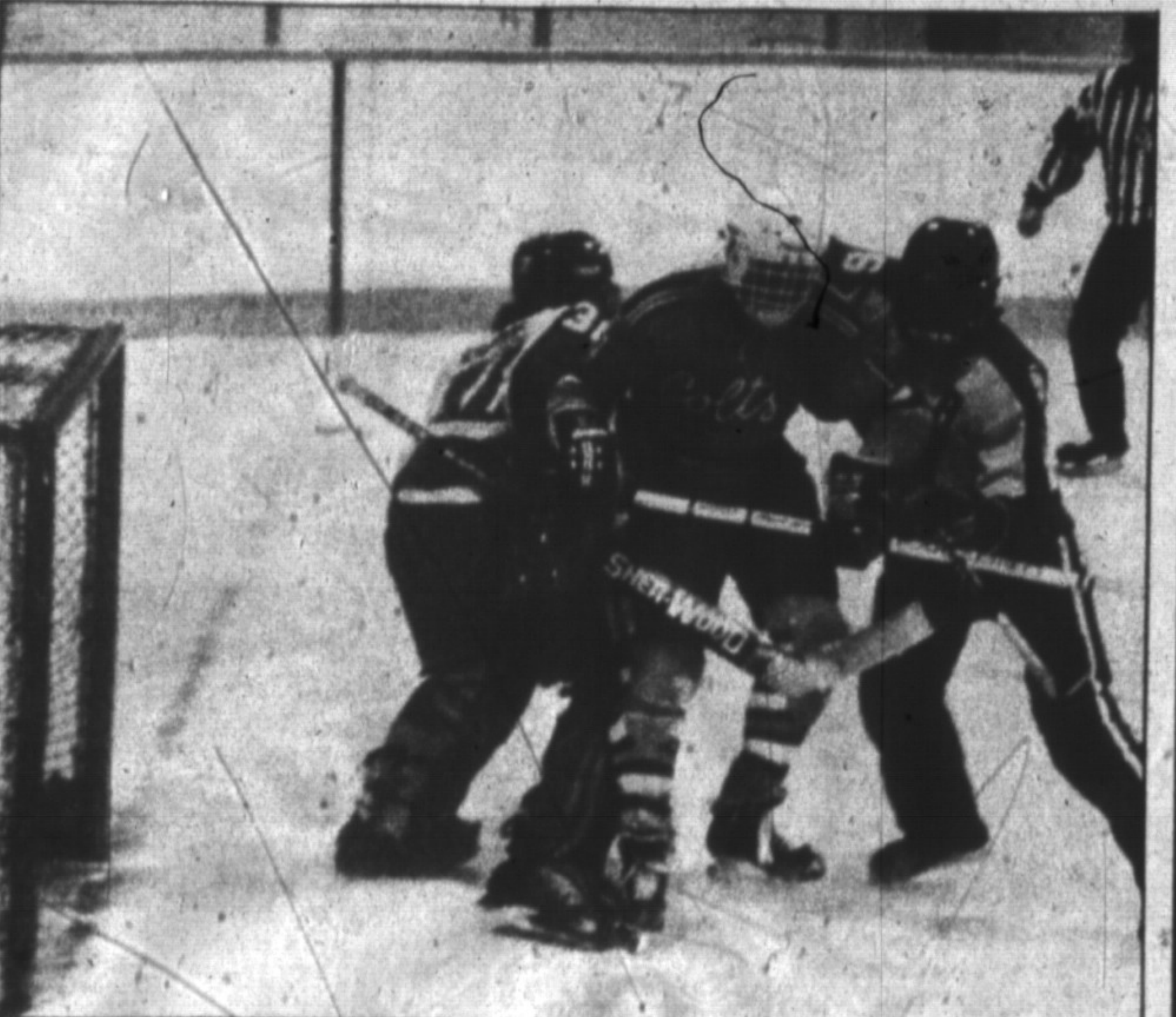
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Being a goalie can be hazardous work, as these two pictures illustrate. Above Milton goalie Paolo Zilian and defenceman Randy Heggie sandwich a Barrie Cold Friday at Milton.



Saturday night Burlington goalie Stu Jack was down for the count, above. Steamers took both games and looked sharp, for the most part, in doing so.

Back-to-back victories

Is Steamroller starting up?

By ROB KELLY
Champion Reporter

The game was over and Gary Hudson's players were mingling with the throng that stomped to blaring music in celebration. Hudson's Milton Steamers were lost in the crowd at Saturday's dance, just some of the many young people out having a good time to cap a good weekend. The local Jr. B squad had gained four points in 24 hours, polishing off troublesome Barrie 5-2 Friday and edging Burlington 4-3 Saturday.

The bouncing mob gyrated in the dark behind Hudson, who was dressed in a grey sports jacket and tie. Separated by 30 feet and a score of years the hidden hockey players and Hudson looked like what they were: opposite poles in a generation gap.

But the Milton coach had managed, at least temporarily, that most elusive of tasks. He had gotten his young charges to do what he wanted them to do and enjoy doing it.

All season long Milton has been mired in the middle of a highly competitive struggle among the also-rans in Central Ontario Jr. B. Up one week and down the next, the squad was consistent only in its inconsistencies. But with some patience and tinkering it appeared that Milton's managers and coach had hit upon a formula for success. At least Hudson hoped so.

"We beat the two top clubs in the league (Oakville last week and Barrie Friday) and then Burlington," Hudson said. "Now everybody who's there just wants to play."

"It's nothing flashy, but they don't quit. I'm not worried about how many points we've got but at this time of the year we want to play well. In the past we've played with every team, but playing with them is not the same as beating them."

Milton captain Mark Duval said the turning point was probably as early as Christmas.

"Over the holidays we had a general meeting," he said, "and a lot of things were straightened out. We hadn't been following the game plan and we were losing a lot of games in the third period. But I think there's been a lot of growing up from those losses. A lot of guys feel we can do it now. And the way we're playing right now, I don't think there's a team in the league that can beat us."

While Barrie coach Mike McCann would understandably not concede that point, he admitted that Steamers outplayed Barrie Friday.

"They hustled tonight and they outskated

us," he said. "We have a few kids who are struggling. We're in a slump right now."

Following Saturday's game Burlington Cougar coach Phil Cameron would not speak to this reporter about the game or anything else, save to insult and dismiss him (see Rob Kelly column). Cameron, serving the tail end of a suspension for illegal use of players, (Champion Dec. 19) watched the game from the stands.

Milton dropped Trevor Erb last week and added two new players, Hal Urekar and Darrin Shaw. Shaw played minor hockey in

Milton but toiled most recently for a Michigan midget team, St. Clair Shores. Urekar has been out of organized hockey for more than two years. He last played for Hamilton Huskies (Jr. B).

Shaw is with Steamers for an evaluation. He can play three games before the club must decide whether he can stay. Shaw is a 5'7", 150-lb. winger. "He's small but he gives 100 per cent," said Milton manager Grant Turner. "That's why we want to take a look at him."

Urekar appears to be a permanent addition. A 6'2", 200-lb. addition. He is the new cop on the beat.

"Urekar is not going to get pushed around by anyone in this league," vowed Turner. "He's not going to go out and stick anyone but he's a big, tough winger and we're going to use him as a big tough winger."

Although Milton has no import cards left Turner is still considering some local players for a possible place on the Steamer squad. He won't say who right now.

Two Milton players earned hat tricks in weekend action. Rick Stachura recorded one Friday against Colts and Dale Dawe dunned Cougars for three goals Saturday.

Overall Steamers offered a stronger effort Friday evening when they used their advantages consistently. Milton played a strong skating game, relying almost totally on speed to maintain the edge over Colts. Steamers play only a glancing checking game when they're in this "Hurry-up" offence.

The squad swapped goals in the opening period. Stachura got the first of his three in a row on a power play at 9:36 and Colts countered at 17:15 from Brian Cyr.

Eleven minutes into the middle act Stachura flipped one over a diving Steve Laurin, who was caught out of position when play burst quickly from the corner to the



Hal Urekar

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Rivalry re-lived

Milton's 1968 Junior C hockey squad will take on former arch-rival Georgetown at 7 p.m. Friday at Memorial Arena in a non-contact exhibition remembrance.

The two teams used to fight tooth and nail for Halton bragging rights and former members of both teams are coming from as far away as Michigan to participate. Back when you had to pay to see this sort of thing local fans would line up and get turned away at the door for lack of seating, ex-player Steve Gervais said.

But those who got into the arena apparently witnessed some action-packed hockey and a few other things too. Gervais said the fights used to start on the ice and develop from there, often involving fans as well as foes.

The event is being sponsored by Milton Steamers' Jr. B club and takes place before the Steamer game.