

Haskett, Martin out of MHL



Willy Ceelin: he lost Haskett and Martin.

By ROB KELLY
Champion Reporter

Last week Sandstone Transport coach Derek Griffiths predicted the Milton Hockey League championship would be contested by his squad and Straight Line Fence. Griffiths' crystal ball looked a bit cloudier this week as Century 21 Golden Hawks battled Straight Line to a 5-5 stalemate.

It was an important game for Dave Dermo's Hawks. The tie put Hawks only a game behind league-leading Sandstone and only a point behind Straight Line. That close contention is one of the ways Hawks rate their team. Dermo discounts Griffiths' prophecy.

"Yeah, I read that," Dermo said with a puzzled look on his face. "There's no question that they're two good teams. But I think we're capable of being there. Tonight I thought we played well enough to win. I thought we just didn't get the breaks."

It was Hawks second tie in as many starts. In their previous game they eked out a 3-3 tie with Haggart Crane Service.

In other developments, Mark Haskett and Jeff Martin were barred from MHL competition because they had signed Ontario Hockey Association cards within the last year. The two players had suited up for Superchoice Country Markets for one game but when league manager John McLean checked he found that both had held Milton Jr. B cards within the last 12 months.

That roadblock crimps any plans Superchoice may have had of taking a late run at the three leading squads. Willy Ceelin, the former coach who has enlisted as a player because of a personnel shortage, thought it was just another nail in a league-fashioned coffin.

"Obviously they're illegal players," Ceelin admitted. "But at the beginning of the year we lost three players, Brett Patterson, Mike Shepherd and Buddy Thomas. We lost players who were our property and we received no compensation."

"When they got rid of protected players (at the beginning of the year) everybody wanted to go and play with their friends," Griffiths, standing nearby, added. "We got four new players that way."

As the season winds down (there are five games left) the game results are becoming almost predictable, at least as far as Superchoice and West End Bulls are concerned. Superchoice lost a 6-3 decision to Haggart Sunday and Bulls were pounded 11-4 by league-leading Sandstone.

Bulls played Doug Riding, a new addition, Sunday. It was his second game. But since he did not sign prior to the cut-off date McLean says he is ineligible for playoff action.

In the best game of the evening, powerhouse Straight Line had to fight back in order to gain the tie. Mike Kalapaca had been the source of most of Fencers' trouble. He had a hat trick for the evening.

Keith McKinnon opened the scoring for Hawks halfway through the opening period. McKinnon wheeled across the front of the net and backhanded one behind Craig Jubb. Duane Stark assisted.

A minute later Eric Ellison notched the first of his three for the night on Fencers' behalf. He tipped the puck past Shepherd, assisted by Bill Lyons and Buddy Thomas. But Kalapaca put Hawks back in the lead with 21 seconds left in the first, assisted by Mark Mullally.

Fencers came back to tie it early in the second with a power-play goal. Ralph Serafini connected from right wing with a low shot past Shepherd's trapper. But four minutes later Ken Whetham came out from behind the Fencer net to sneak one in a corner and put Hawks back in the lead.

Action heated up in the final frame with five goals, two from Hawks and three from Fencers. Kalapaca trickled one past Jubb to open it up but less than a minute later Ellison countered. He rounded out his hat trick at 7:24 and less than a minute later, following consistent heavy pressure, Fencers took the lead for the first time in the game. Terry Ellwood made it count on the fifth or sixth consecutive Fencer shot during a mob meleé in front of the net.

Kalapaca pulled off the tie one minute later with the last goal of the game. Mullally assisted.

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Sounders at Lindsay

Milton Colour and Sound peewee A reps split their two games in the recent Lindsay tournament but there was no disgrace in the manner of Milton's loss.

Sounders pounded Oshawa 7-1 in the tournament opener but fell to New Britain 2-1 in overtime to close out the tournament. Overtime was played on the basis of subtracting a player a minute from both sides until one squad scored to end it. It boiled down to a two-skater and two-goalie battle before matters were decided. Ryan Tummon patrolled the posts for Milton and he held off Little Britain sharpshooters throughout regulation time.

The second game was scoreless until the third period, when Little Britain pulled ahead. But Jarret Blanchard brought Milton back and forced overtime. John Finley and Mangotich assisted on his goal.

Darren Beals had another big day for Milton in their first meeting. He scored two unassisted goals in the second period and added four assists throughout the contest. Steve Mangotich opened the scoring for Milton in the first, assisted by Beals and Rob Bednarski. Mangotich cashed one of his own in the second, assisted by Brad Burns and Beals, and Beals added his two goals. In the third Bill Moffatt and Bednarski scored, with both shooters being assisted by Beals.

Girls hockey

Valerie Wood was the lone scorer in a lop-sided 8-1 loss to Oakville in Milton girls junior hockey action Monday. But Tuesday Milton rebounded to take a 7-1 win from Flamboro.

In Flamboro, Jennifer Bascom netted a hat trick with Shelley Pasta adding two goals. Liz Hunter and Jamie Picard both scored their first goals of the year in the contest.

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