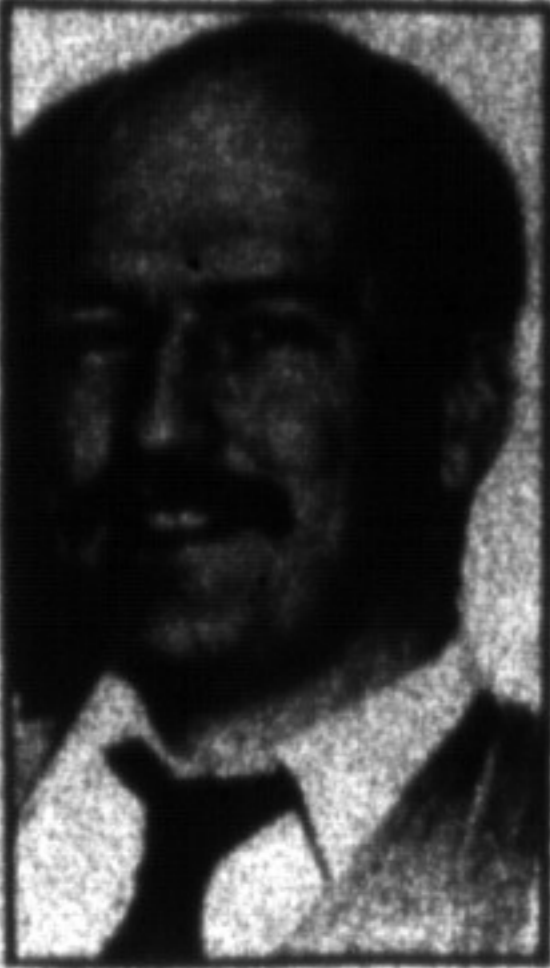


Rob Kelly



Close to the edge

Sometimes at a particularly rough hockey game the violence spills over into the stands. Usually there are enough warning signs before that happens to allow time for the local gendarmes to establish a presence. But sometimes it breaks out quickly, exacerbated by a particular incident. That almost happened Saturday in Burlington.

Milton's Jr. B team was playing in Burlington. It was the third period. A series of fights broke out on the ice. Three Milton players were fighting three Burlington players. Milton's Claude Bertrand was getting the worst of his tussle. His counterpart had managed to get his helmet off and banged him a few stiff cuffs in the face.

There was the usual confusion following the fights. But there was more. When Bertrand left the ice he had to pass directly under the Burlington bench. A crowd of Burlington players jeered him. In the middle of that crowd, laughing, jeering and waving goodbye, was Burlington coach Phil Cameron.



Phil Cameron

ing was perfectly clear. From far above, and behind Cameron, Turner's anger boomed down at him.

"Shut your mouth, Cameron," Turner warned, his voice and eyes seething with rage. "You got something to say, come up here and say it."

A Burlington fan countered for Cameron. The St. John's ambulance attendant nearby started to look worried. He could see what was coming. We all could. Milton's other co-owners, Dave Del Papa and Howie Scannell, moved down to flank Turner.

Luckily it went no further. Tempers cooled, at least somewhat. Turner remained incensed at Cameron after the game. "You tell that Cameron that the next time he grabs a Milton player (Turner alleges that Cameron held a Steamer by the arm while talking to him, I could not see) he'll have to deal with me."

I will tell Phil Cameron no such thing, mostly since we are not on speaking terms. The piece below tells why. It was written for last week's paper.

Burlington Cougars were in Milton recently and Cameron accompanied them, although he had to sit in the stands because he's suspended (Champion, Dec. 19).

Cameron tried a holier-than-thou tack after the game, which is odd for a guy who was suspended for 10 games and fined \$1,200. Cameron took the heaviest fumble in the recent OHA investigation which supposedly swept the league clean of illegally carded players.

He refused to talk to me after the game because, he said, I had told him in a phone interview that Turner said some things about him that Turner really did not say. He gave the impression that I had tricked him or provoked him into saying things he didn't want to say.

I asked Turner after the game whether he had spoken to Cameron about me. Nope. Hadn't spoken to him about anything except for an exchange of pleasantries prior to the game.

Cameron waffled on self-righteously a bit more about having no respect for me and my supposed connivances. I was flabbergasted and stupidly I threatened the guy. But I've got to admit, he's good. In the space of a few short sentences he had turned the tables completely. Instead of being the object of a mini media grilling, he had become the hurt innocent and thrown me off my attacking game plan. The guy's good enough for politics.

Oh yes, he appealed his fines and suspension. He lost.

To that I will add the following. Phil Cameron appears to be one of those people who can slide the knife in and twist as it smarts most. He almost caused a very unpleasant incident by doing that Saturday. Turner is basically a nice fellow with a short fuse. Phil Cameron may well be basically a nice fellow with a manipulative streak. But he would do well to rise above on-ice scuffles, rather than prolonging them and provoking other problems.

Should Loyola midget cagers meet White Oaks in Halton basketball playoffs there should be some intense competition.

"White Oaks claimed there was no competition in the league," Loyola coach Stan Gajewski said recently. "They only beat us by four points. I was a little incensed by that."

Milton referee Gord Hasselfeldt was appointed a district supervisor recently. That means that he travels the western Tri-County area performing a sort of quality control function, checking local standards and evaluating referees for promotions.

Hasselfeldt has been a Milton referee for years and is considered one of the best in town. The appointment comes from the Ontario Minor Hockey Association. It is the first time a Milton resident has been chosen. Hasselfeldt will assume control of the Milton area next year but he's moving into the volunteer job through out-of-area centres.

Oldtimer action

They came from far and wide to risk heart failure and humiliation but thankfully there was none of either.

The heart failure and the humiliation go with the territory, lurking in the shadows, when you try to pretend you're something you were 20 years ago. Friday night at Memorial Arena the memories were there and the skills were not, but it didn't really matter.

Flabby and fortyish, the former Jr. C stars from Milton and Georgetown took to the ice to renew an old hockey rivalry. The two teams were reportedly the hottest rivalry in the loop in the late '60s. Friday they played a polite but competitive exhibition before the latest incarnation of that rivalry, the Jr. B Steamers and Georgetown Gemini, took to the ice.

Milton won the game 3-1. They beat the visitors with a combination of aggressive forechecking, blinding three-man breakouts and tight-fisted defence. Sure. And the game was carried live coast-to-coast, too.

Actually it's hard to figure out exactly how Milton won. Perhaps it's a matter best left to the participants and coaches.

"The guys were in pretty good shape, for the shape they were in," intoned Milton coach Murray Grenke as he wrapped a hand around a beer to wash away the game's tension. "It's like I said before the game. All we're going to do is baffle them with skill and science."

Roger Wildfong articulated that last statement. He was asked how he scored Milton's first goal. "The puck just bounced in off my stick."

Georgetown coach Gerry Inglis had high praise for Brent McMullen, who swept down the ice for a breakaway (thwarted) on Pete McDuffe. "I was amazed he could skate that well," Inglis said.

In the Georgetown dressing room the agony of defeat hung in the air for about three or four seconds. "I thought it was four out of seven," deadpanned one player. "If we knew it was going to be that competitive we would have brought the whole team," added another.

Georgetown had four extra players to Milton's seven, a decided disadvantage in the third period. The first two frames were 10 minutes long but the final was a straight time 20-minute endurance test. As the game wound down many players bore those expressions you see on rough plane rides.

Raiders moved in front late in the second period. Jack Gudgeon put one past Peter McDuffe. Speedster McMullen assisted. Milton got theirs back in the third. Wildfong scored after some consistent Milton pressure at 13:30 remaining. Jim Cole and John Forbes assisted.

A minute later Gervais got the winner, with Moe Miljour and Dick Marshall assisting. Craig Brush added the insurance goal late in the game. He beat Brian Peavoy with a low slapshot at 4:21. Jim Cole assisted.

Raiders had a few good chances in the final period, notably McMullen's breakaway and a two-on-one attack that was cancelled by the game-ending buzzer.



Brian Peavoy recovers as Milton's Bert Bertoli closes in from the front at the Oldtimer's game Friday. Barry Elliott appears to be on a collision course with Bertoli. Milton won the game 3-1.

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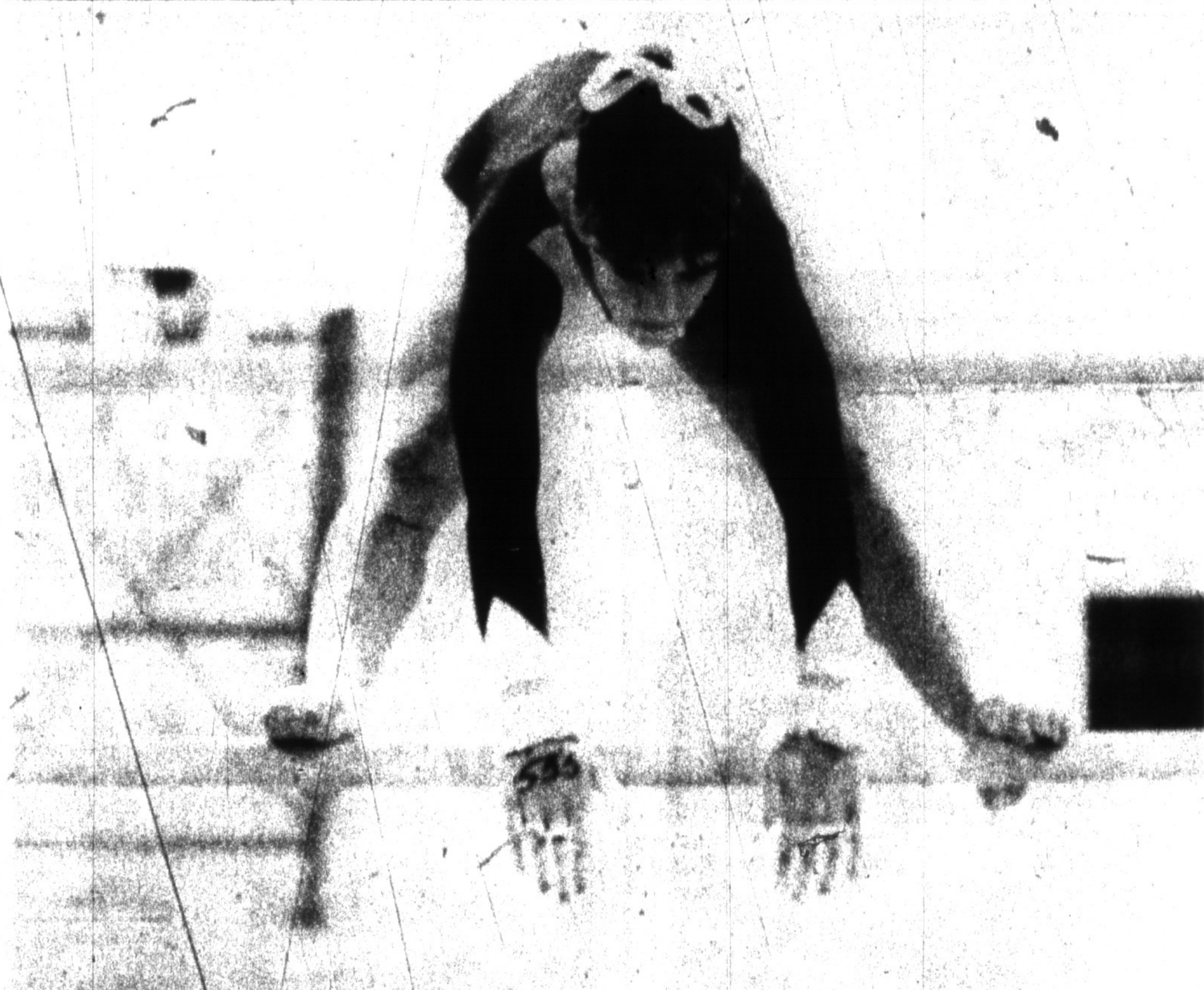
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Jennifer Dobson shows her form on the uneven bars at the Milton Springers' first competition of the season Saturday. Springers produced impressive results all around and Dobson brought home a gold medal. See story at right. (photo by Jon Borgstrom)

Springers get gold

It isn't often in an individual sport a club can send a team to a major competition and see the entire team come home medal and ribbon winners. But that's exactly what Milton Springers gymnastics club did Saturday.

Springers travelled to Burlington for the first Ontario Gymnastic Federation regional qualifying meet. When it was over both Jennifer Dobson and Gail Eastwood had struck gold.

Tyro B competitor Dobson came back from a year layoff to capture the medal. She had been recuperating from a gymnastics injury. She placed first in the floor event, the uneven bars and the balance beam. She racked up an impressive 35.40 points to earn the gold, and her teammates flanked her at medal presentations. Melanie Wood picked up second with 34.40 points, edging Jennifer Arnold and Joanne Keyworth, who tied for third with 34.35. The foursome also swept the team competition.

In Junior B competition Eastwood dominated a compact field. She earned three top spots in various events starting with the beam. She picked up a 6.60 points there, added 8.85 in her floor routine and finished with a flourish by posting an impressive 8.66 on uneven bars.

Milton's rookie gymnasts, the Argo (10-year-olds) fashioned a second-place overall finish behind Guelph's Julie Hildebrand earned two sixth-place ribbons on vault and bars and was sixth overall. Melanie Jans and Kristi Prior were third and fifth respectively on floor routines. Hilary Lawrence provided the additional points to give Milton second overall.

Tyro Kim Collier performed the best Milton vault of the day in her division scoring 8.70 to earn a fifth-place ribbon.

Steamers: A disappointing week

By **ROB KELLY**
Champion Reporter

It was to be a four-point week out of a possible six. It turned out to be a two-point week. And it wasn't pretty either.

Milton Jr. B Steamers lost to Barrie (3-1) Thursday, squeaked by Georgetown (2-1) Friday and lost a violence-marred close game to Burlington Cougars (4-3) Saturday in Burlington.

While the Barrie contest (at Barrie) was reportedly close throughout and the Georgetown yawner (at Milton) definitely was, Steamers blew the Burlington game with a glaring deficiency that has dogged them throughout the year. They are ineffective on power plays.

Time and time again Saturday they enjoyed a man advantage on the hometowners but were unable to capitalize on the chances. Milton coach Gary Hudson had proved prophetic when he spoke of the problem the evening before, after Milton had blown similar opportunities against an also-ran Georgetown squad.

"What lost us the game last night could have lost us the game tonight," Hudson admitted Friday at Memorial Arena. "No power play. We've got the worst power play in the league. We've been working on this for two months now. We do one thing in practice and then another in the game. In Barrie we had a two-man advantage and didn't even get a shot on net."

Hudson once again chronicled the erratic nature of his club's performances. "We should have won last night (Barrie) and lost tonight (to Georgetown). We played terribly. What lost us the game last night (mostly ineffective power plays) could have lost us the game tonight."

Despite the fact that the Georgetown contest was dull, Hudson always approaches games against Gemini coach

Jules Russiahi with apprehension.

"He's a good coach," Hudson acknowledged. "He knew how to stop us and he did it. The night we beat Russiahi 10-4 was the first night he saw us. And then look what happened tonight."

Russiahi, obviously upset that his team could not come back to the Milton, pointed out that he is in the initial stages of attempting to mold a contender. "We're a very young team. We've got eight or nine guys out of midget. We're building towards next year."

Burlington, one of the many clubs stuck in the middle of the Central League pack, may be building towards next year too. But Saturday they did it at Milton's expense.

The first three goals of the game were scored while the teams played four on four. Burlington opened the scoring in the first frame. Milton came back to tie and then Cougars took the lead again in the second period. Steamers countered when Randy Heggie tallied following a face-off in the Cougar zone but Burlington came back with two quick goals.

That was all they needed, despite Bob Landry's second of the night for Milton with less than a minute to play in the game.

Mark Symes opened the scoring for Cougars from a scramble in front of Paolo Zulian's net. That was it for the first frame but Landry tied it early in the second with a low shot past Stu Jack's trapper. Marc West put Cougars back in the lead with the prettiest goal of the night. He wheeled in to score with a backhand. Most of the Milton shift co-operated. They got stuck in neutral during the change from offence to defence.

Heggie tied it again but Cougars netted two quick ones, all they needed, late in the period. Brett Gordon flipped in a high

wrist shot and Kevin Blakey added the winner on a power-play effort.

Landry countered with 41 seconds left in the game. He flipped the puck over a pile of bodies from beside the crease. Steamers put a lot of pressure on Jack late in the game. When the buzzer sounded he leaned back on the crossbar and let out a sigh of relief. One of his players hugged him in gratitude for hanging on.

The game was disrupted by an ugly incident in the third period. Three separate fights broke out on the ice simultaneously. Milton's Claude Bertrand, Kevin Holmes

and Mike Seiling battled Mike Dwyer, Marc West and Scott Tallach. They all took fighting majors and game misconducts. Bertrand was getting the worst of his tussle and Randy Heggie stepped in to pull his opponent away. Heggie did not attack, merely interrupted. He was ejected for being third man in.

Rick Stachura got Milton's only goal against Barrie. Colts Seiling and Ken MacDonald tallied against Georgetown. Milton faces Mimico Monarchs Friday at Memorial Arena. Game time is 8 p.m. It's minor hockey night, so players from that organization get in free.



Burlington goalie Stu Jack gets a hug from Glen Horner. Jack held Milton off in the last minutes of Saturday's game.