Coming up

PA Day Public Skating, 2-3:20 p.m. Friday at Acton Arena and Mold-Masters SportsPlex. Info: www.haltonhills.ca/skate

Atom AE Thunder in OMHA finals

Riding an 11-game winning streak, the Halton Hills atom additional entry Thunder swept aside the Niagara Falls Canucks in three straight games to earn a spot in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association AE 2 championship series against the Aurora Tigers.

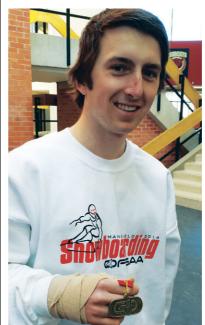
The Thunder won 5-2 in Niagara Falls Monday to complete the semifinal sweep.

The Halton Hills Castle Building Centres minor midgets lost 5-2 in Stoney Creek Tuesday night and are tied in the six-point OMHA AA semifinal 3-3, with game four here Thursday at 9 p.m.

Elsewhere, the novice AE Thunder trailed Milton 2-1 in their best-of-5 OMHA semi heading into game four on Wednesday night.

Nathan Pines and Cameron Hampton scored in the bantam AEs' 5-2 loss to Guelph Tuesday as they were eliminated.

Stamp stomps slopes at OFSAA snowboarding



LOGAN STAMP

Logan Stamp, a Grade 12 Acton High School student, won gold at the Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association Snowboard Festival on last week at the Mansfield Ski Club, becoming the first provincial champion in that sport for the Bearcats.

Stamp faced a field of the best 160 racers from all corners of the province.

Wearing Bib #28, he turned in a flawless run and ended the first heat atop all competitors, with a lead of over just under two seconds. After some minor adjustments made to the course, Stamp once again stepped up to the challenge and delivered another stellar performance, a second run that shaved off another half second.

GDHS hoops grads in spotlight

Three graduates of the Georgetown District High School boys' basketball program have made an impression at the post-secondary level in the playoffs.

Sebastian Beckett's McGill Redmen captured the Quebec league title with a victory over Bishop's last weekend and will play in the eight-team Canadian Interuniversity Sport Championships this weekend at Carelton University in Ottawa.

Beckett, a first-year 6-foot-7 centre, scored one basket, grabbed a rebound and had a blocked shot in the contest.

His teammate last year on the senior Rebels' squad, guard

Alex Garvey, helped Lambton College qualify for the post-season for the first time in 12 years before bowing out in their first game to Seneca.

Brett Neumann, a fourthyear power forward for Humber College, was a key player in the Hawks' run to the Ontario semifinals.

Beezer' brings March Break camp back to town

It doesn't take long for youngsters enrolled in one of Mark Biesenthal's recent P.A. Day on-ice clinics that lollygagging will not be tolerated.

Just a few seconds into a skating drill, one of the 30 skaters in Biesenthal's Pro Active Hockey Development program at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex half-heartedly negotiated an obstacle course. Like a border collie herding cattle, the 39-year-old head instructor is quickly on his student's heels, barking out orders like a drill sergeant.

"Do it again, properly," says Biesenthal, before demonstrating to the surprised camper that the drill needs to be done at a quicker pace. Biesenthal, or 'Beezer' as he's called, has been operating camps and clinics in Georgetown for the last couple of years and has another March Break camp set here for next week. It's not all stops and starts and a lot of yelling, as the former minor pro player dishes out high-fives and words of encouragement, but says he's also not running a babysitting service.

"I make sure that there are always corrections," he said.

"I don't like kids passing by without doing things properly, proper stride, proper technique. Yes, I'm loud, (but) the kids get used to it after a while. They know I'm not mad at them. It brings a smile to my face when I see kids enjoy it.



MARK BIESENTHAL

The goal is to make a difference for the kids and provide another outlet to learn. It's great to introduce new things to them — edgework, shooting techniques, puck protection — the kids want to come back and they have a different bounce in their step when they come to the rink "

Biesenthal starred at Elmira College as a high-scoring forward before moving on to the pro ranks in the East Coast and Western Professional leagues. After a season in England in 2002, Biesenthal was debating on whether to return to Europe when he suffered a severe head injury after the truck his wife was driving crashed, sending him through the windshield.

He was in a coma at Sunnybrook Hospital for four days and his recovery was slow, having to learn to talk, walk, drive and skate all over again.

"Lucky I was in good shape and my head is like concrete anyway, so that's what saved my butt," he added.

"A few months later a buddy of mine from Elmira started up a hockey school and right away he wanted me to coach because he saw that I was a bit old school. The biggest thing for me and life in general is that you can't teach hard work and nowadays that's hard to come by."

For more info, visit the website www.proactivehockey-development.com





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