

Forward, goalie among OHA's top prospects

Two Oakville residents were among the six winners of Ontario Hockey Association top-prospect awards recognizing the most promising young players in the Ontario Junior Hockey League this past season.

Hockey Briefs

Michael Prapavessis was one of two OJHL defencemen to receive the honour, while Ben Blacker was the only goaltender to earn the accolade.

Prapavessis, 18, helped the Toronto Lakeshore Patriots win the OJHL title and advance to the RBC Cup national junior A tournament. Scoring five goals and adding 50 assists during the regular season, Prapavessis was a unanimous decision for the



Michael Prapavessis



Ben Blacker

OJHL top defenceman award and was also selected as the league's most gentlemanly player. Prapavessis was a first-team all-star and a member of Team Canada East at the World Jr. A Challenge this past winter. Previously drafted by the OHL's Saginaw Spirit, Prapavessis instead committed to RPI and is ranked 108th among North American skaters in NHL Central Scouting's final rankings for the 2014 NHL Entry Draft.

Blacker backstopped the Milton IceHawks to one of their most successful seasons in recent history, posting a 16-13-1 record and .911 save percentage.

Committed to Western Michigan University for 2015, Blacker suited up for Team Canada East at the World Jr. A Challenge and also played for Team Ontario at the World Under-17 Hockey Challenge.

All 2013-14 OHA winners will receive their awards tomorrow (Friday) at the Hockey Hall of Fame.

Martin, Barwell recognized by Steelheads

Oakville native Spencer Martin was named Mississauga Steelheads' MVP at the Ontario Hockey League team's annual awards banquet recently in Mississauga.



Spencer Martin

The third-year goaltender was selected for his consistency as both a leader and a player. Martin, a third-round pick of the Colorado Avalanche in last year's NHL Entry Draft, posted a 24-33-5 record, 3.54 goals-against average and .899 save percentage in 64 games last season.



Jesse Barwell

Another Oakville resident,

Jesse Barwell, was named the Steelheads' scholastic player of the year. The rookie forward maintained excellent grades this past season at Phillip Po-cock Secondary School despite his hockey-heavy schedule. Barwell (four goals, 13 assists in 60 games last season) was nominated earlier this year for the Bobby Smith Trophy (OHL scholastic player of the year), making him part of the 2013-14 OHL Scholastic Team.

Former Blades blueliner bound for Dalhousie

Oakville's Patrick Arnold recently confirmed his commitment to attend Dalhousie University this fall, where he will play hockey for the Tigers.

A three-time honours student in high school, Arnold played five seasons in the Ontario Junior Hockey League, suiting up for 47 games with the Oakville Blades in 2011-12. The 6-foot-4 defenceman started last season with the British Columbia Hockey League's Cowichan Valley Capitals before returning to the OJHL to rejoin the Milton IceHawks prior to the 2014 trade deadline.



Patrick Arnold

"Playing university hockey has always been a goal for me," Arnold said.

"I'm grateful to have had the opportunity to play in the OJHL and earn the chance to move to the next level."



Oakville Masters Swim Club members Sylvie Tremblay (left) and Janice Gibbs both won seven medals at the recent national masters championships. | photo by Graham Paine – Oakville Beaver – @Halton_PhotoG

Masters swimmers win 28 medals at nationals

A 13-swimmer contingent from the Oakville Masters Swim Club managed to win 28 individual medals and five relay medals at the Canadian masters championships recently in Windsor.

Sylvie Tremblay and Janice Gibbs led the way, each winning three gold, two silver and two bronze. Tremblay, 48, claimed gold in the 50-metre backstroke, 100m backstroke and 100m individual medley, adding two silver and two bronze. Gibbs, 55, claimed gold in the 50m breaststroke, 50m butterfly and 200m IM.

Both women also set Ontario records in one event, Tremblay in the F45-49 100m IM and Gibbs in the F55-59 50m butterfly.

Michael Leipner, 76, added three silver medals and three bronze.

Other medal winners included 31-year-old Amie Peddle (three silver), 58-year-old Sonia Lopes (one silver, two bronze), 51-year-old Mairi MacGregor

(bronze) and 47-year-old Wendy Lengyel (bronze).

A trio of Oakville relay teams also won gold. The team of Stefani Penner, Tremblay, Gibbs and Peddle won the women's 4x200m freestyle (total age group 160-199); James Kerr, Jennifer Agnew, Leipner and Gibbs claimed the mixed 4x200m freestyle (240-279); and Kerr, Lopes, Tremblay and Liepner won the mixed 4x200m medley (240-279).

Erin White was part of a silver-winning relay team as well.

"We had a busy two days of competition," said Oakville Masters coach Mette Novais. "Everybody had fun, demonstrated great team spirit and was swimming very fast with many personal bests achieved."

The next major competition on the team's calendar is the 15th FINA World Masters Championships, slated for Aug. 2-9 in Montreal. Many of the club's swimmers have already posted world-qualifying teams this year and are eligible to compete in the event.

Trinity wins its first Halton lacrosse title, qualifies for OFSAA

It was time to see what the Holy Trinity Titans were made of.

A young team made up of mainly Grade 9 and 10 students had jumped out to a 3-0 lead against the Christ the King Jaguars in Trinity's second game of the recent Halton high school boys' lacrosse championship tournament. But a Titan penalty late in the first half had allowed the defending champs to score twice and pull within one.

Trinity had never beaten Christ the King and as the teams began the final half, momentum was clearly not in the Titans' favour.

Goalie Jacob Patriquin would limit the Jaguars to just two goals in the second half, though, and Holy

Trinity pulled out a 6-4 victory.

Hours later, the two teams would square off again with the Halton title on the line. Proving their earlier victory was no fluke, the Titans scored the game's first four goals and this time did not let their rivals back in the game. Led by five second-half goals by Grade 9 student Marley Angus, the Titans won 10-5 to win their first Halton lacrosse title and qualify for this week's Ontario Federation of School Athletic Associations tournament in Mississauga and Brampton.

"It was a huge confidence boost for us (to get the early lead)," said Trinity's Ben Heidecker, one of only three graduating players on

the team. "The game is all about momentum and that set us up for victory. It's incredible to win the school's first Halton (lacrosse) championship and to do it my last year at Holy Trinity."

Holy Trinity won all four of its games at the Halton tournament. Trinity opened with an 11-2 win over Assumption, beat Christ the King to clinch first in its pool and then then doubled Loyola 12-6.

Trinity also got goals in the final from Grade 10 student Adam Wolfe and Robert Hudson, a Grade 11 student who has already committed to the University of Vermont.

— Herb Garbutt