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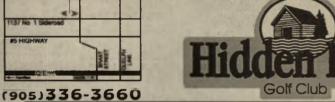
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SOFT





The Oakville Rangers triple-A minor novice rep team were thrilled to receive a visit from Chris Pronger (centre, back row) when the St. Louis Blues were in Toronto recently. Here's the rest of the team. Back row ... manager Dominic Derenzis, coach Tony Lepera, coach Vince Lepera and coach Joe Lepera. BACK ROW: Eric Chiasson, Michael Mirabelli, Daniel Purcell, Reid Stevens, Matt Prapavessis, Austen Gregoris, Elliott Cowburn, Joel Selinger, captain Michael Derenzis and Scott Henry. KNEELING: Bradley Morris, Matthew McKeown, Bryce MacRae, Tyler Karius and Matt Hand. GOALIES: Jimmy Whelpdale and Joseph Lepera.

Chris Pronger pays Oakville team a visit

The Oakville CANRON Rangers minor novice AAA squad headed into the holiday break having won two of their last three — all on the road — bringing their record for the season to a respectable 14-

One of the hi-lites of the season so far, was the appearance of St. Louis Blues' defenceman Chris Pronger who accompanied the Rangers to Brampton in to have one of the NHL's premiere players attend their game.

Pronger, who has business ties with one

of the player's families, met and talked to all of the players in the dressing room prior to the game, then watched as the Rangers cruised to a 4-1 win over Halton

After the game, Pronger returned to the Oakville dressing room where he made himself available for photos, and presented each player with a personalized, autographed picture.

> The team would like to thank Chris for his time and assure him that his efforts will provide the Rangers and their families with a lasting memory.

The Rangers travelled to St. Catharine's to take on the STA division leaders and turned in one of their most dominating performances of the season. Back-stopped by netminder Joseph Lepera, the Rangers outhustled the Royals en route to a convincing 5-1 victory. Scoring the goals for Oakville were Michael DeRenzis (2); Matthew McKeown, Bryce MacRae and Bradley Morris. Assists went to Joel Selinger (2), Morris, Matthew Prapavessis and Daniel

In Welland, Oakville gave up the opening goal but then regrouped and fought back for a 2-1 win.

Selinger tied the game in the second period, taking a breakaway pass from Morris at the Tiger blue line and putting a low wrist-shot through the pads of the Tiger goalie. Eric Chiasson, who started the play in the

scored the winner on a fine individual effort, splitting the defenders and making a good move on the goalie. The Ranger defencemen, led on the night by Elliot Cowburn, made life easy Oakville goalie Jim Whelpdale, who shut the door the rest of the way to preserve

Ranger zone, also assisted. Team captain, Michael DeRenzis, then

the 2-1 victory.

The Rangers fell 5-1 to the CTA division, and league-leading Brampton Battalion. The Rangers, who were minus two of three right wingers for the night, thought they would also be without the services of defenceman Mike Mirabelli. Mirabelli had to leave the ice during the pre-game warm-up with the flu, but returned for the start of the game and turned in a strong perfor-Chiasson mance. Oakville's lone goal, assisted by DeRenzis and Brad Morris.

On the Run

Bring in the millennium on the right foot at the Oakville Y2K Fun Run. There is no fee, timing or awards. Run for the pure joy of it. Walk or run the route once, twice or as many times as you wish. A donation of non-perishable food will be collected and donated to the Oakville Food Bank. The run kicks off Saturday, January 1, at noon at the Town Square in downtown Oakville. Start and finish under the new Millennium clock. A reception will follow at 12:30 p.m. at the Second Cup at Lakeshore and Navy. For inquiries, call Steven McKinnon at 847-3491 or Todd Milligan at 842-2749.

The new century will kick off with a half and full marathon clinic for both the beginner wishing to step up to the longer distance or the veteran wanting to improve their time. Starting January 12 and running every Wednesday until May, the clinic provides customized training programs, power packed seminars with guest speakers and race pace group runs all to help achieve your goal. The clinic strives to inform, entertain and inspire. Brochures available at the Oakville Y, 410 Rebecca St. in Oakville. For info and registration, call Steven McKinnon at 847-3491.



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