

Apr. 21/86 Golden Lake Thunderbirds capture fourth EFHL trophy

Led by captain Kevin Sarazin hoisting the championship trophy high over his head, the Golden Lake Thunderbirds, for the fourth time in the past five years, circled the ice surface inside the Eganville Arena on Saturday in the traditional victory skate.

Golden Lake almost fell off the high wire in their semi-final series against the Barry's Bay Merchants, but in typical T-Bird fashion the team bounced back and the Eganville Forest Hockey League title is once again theirs to enjoy.

When Randy Mohns slipped a low shot inside the right-hand corner of Searson's net seven minutes into the overtime period on Saturday evening, it touched off a noisy celebration among fans and players alike. Assisting on the championship winning goal were Gerry Laforest and Johnny Stevens.

The Thunderbirds won the series in five games and the prevailing feeling in the dressing room after the game is they were glad they didn't have to lace on the skates again for a sixth game which would have went on Sunday afternoon.

The teams had played three games in four days, all overtime contests, and as a result there were more than a few tired and bruised hockey players.

Championship games between Searson's Blazers and the Thunderbirds had provided some super hockey and the same held true this time around.

The fans who packed the Arena (Friday night's game probably attracted the largest crowd in years, rivaled only by the Flying Fathers visit in 1982), got their money's worth and since 80 per cent of them were from the Golden Lake-Killaloe area, we figure they came away satisfied with the result too.

Fan support wasn't lost on the Thunderbird players who said the cheering really got them fired up and they would like to thank the fans for really getting behind them.

Gutsy Display

The Blazers, too, also played inspired hockey, refusing to give an inch even when the odds were clearly stacked against them.

Consider the Thunderbirds were 10 seconds away from winning the championship. Not much room for hope for Blazer fans, but suddenly Doug Bishop spots the speedy Mitch Brideau and feeds him a pass.

Figuring with less than 10 ticks to go they could relax somewhat, the Golden Lake bench began a bit of a celebration... that is until they saw Brideau with nothing but ice between him and T-Bird goalie Sylvie Madigan.

Thunderbirds' celebration turned to stunned shock as Brideau made a move on Madigan and nestled the puck into the net. Only six seconds remained and it took about a third of that time, for the Blazers to race off the bench and mob their winger.

Although basically outplayed for much of the game, the Blazers were hot as they took to the ice to begin the overtime, dominating play and putting severe pressure on Madigan, who held tough.

Rough Start

Numerous stoppages in play marred the start of the game, and the referee was not a popular fellow with either team.

Golden Lake ignited the first scoring flame of the day at 8:06 when defenceman Mike Summers unleashed a lot shot from the point into the net. Mohns assisted.

Blazers' goalie Dale Lesk was a target of the Golden Lake fans, but despite what they thought of him, he came up with some big saves, as did Madigan who more than once

blocked shots from Blazers who were lonely figures in front of the net.

Dave Gareau, who played one heck of a series for Searson's, tied the game up with but five minutes to go in the period when he whipped the puck through Madigan's legs. Terry Bozack drew the assist.

The Thunderbirds edged out in front 2-1 at 3:53 of the second when Brian Macari radared a centering pass to Jerry Summers who pocketed it in the corner.

Golden Lake increased its advantage to two before the midway point of the stanza on a backhand shot by Allan Mullin on the power-play. Richard Bozack and Macari helped out on the play.

Down, but not out, the Blazers continued to plug away and although they came frustratingly close, their efforts were unsuccessful until Bishop drove the puck high into the net with 19 seconds left after a pass from Larry Wall.

As this is the last hockey report of the season, the **Leader** would like to take this opportunity to particularly thank Carol Fulcher who provided us with the scoresheets during the season and generally put up with numerous phone calls from the sports department.



These students represented Cobden and District Elementary School at a spelling bee held in Eganville recently. Left to right are Brent Dowdall, Stephanie Keon, and Todd Leach. Todd tied for first place with three other contestants in regular competition, and came second to the winner in a final sudden-death round.