

# Bantam AE Tanners win Haliburton Silver Stick

## Meet Port Hope in Tourney Final

Acton's Bantam AE Tanners participated in the 6th annual Highland Storm International Silver Stick Tournament in Haliburton on Dec. 13-14, skating away with the Silver Stick Championship

Tanners laced up and hit the ice for their first game of the series against the Lindsay Muskies at 9 am Saturday.. Both teams came ready to play hockey in an evenly matched game which saw no score through the first two periods. However, the Muskies were the first to break the goose egg.

Not to be outplayed, the Tanners continued to pressure Lindsay. They subsequently coughed up a loose puck, which in turn was picked up by Conner Hitchcock, Hitchcock placed the puck on Jonathon Paquin-Felske's stick who wasted no time neatly sliding the rubber under the Muskie's goaltender of the even-up marker. The score stayed tied at 1-1 until the final buzzer.

### Meet Lincoln

Tanner suited up again at noon against the "Lincoln Blades."

The Blades hit the scoreboard first, getting two quick markers midway through the first period. The Tanner again displayed their fortitude late in the first with Matt Fritz supplying TJ Baker the necessary artillery to beat the glove hand of the Blades goaltender.

This goal would kick-start the Tanners scoring drive through the next two periods, as Connor Hitchcock passed the puck to Michael Fatrdla who fired off a blast of rubber to even up the tally. TJ Baker followed suit, ruffling the Blades mesh with a snapshot on the tape-tape passes from Evan Oulton and Eric Butson.

The Tanners continued to pressure the Blades net-minding with TJ Baker securing the game hat-trick with a well executed wrap-around, sliding the rubber deftly inside the upright thanks to the stick work of Evan Oulton.

Connor Hitchcock was next inline sinking the puck past the Blades goalie's glove hand on a pass from Jonatho Paquin-Felske.

TJ Baker would ultimately finish the Tanner's scoring blitz, lighting the lamp for

his fourth time of the game thanks to Eric Butson's relay. Although the Blades potted two more markers, the Tanners would stand steadfast in their drive to win by two goals.

### Final Score:

#### Acton 6 - Lincoln 4

At 5pm, Acton drew on their strengths to face their third opponent of the day, the "Napinee Stars."

A fast-paced physical game ensued from the start with the Stars attempting to throw the Tanners off their game. The Tanners however remained focused and were to be the first to conquer the scoreboard midway through the first with Jonathon Paquin-Felske feeding a pass to Connor Hitchcock who slid the rubber between the goaltenders' splayed pads.

Early in the second Carter Ebbinge provided Eric Butson with the puck allowing him to precisely place the puck just under the crossbar. Carter Ebbinge ended Acton's scoring drive with a stick side wrist shot easily beating the Blades' cage-master thanks to stick-to-stick work of Will Richards and Evan Oulton.

In the dying minutes of the game with extra Stars sniper on the ice in lieu of a goaltender Napnee scored their only goal.

### Final score:

#### Acton 3- Napanee 1

With a first place finish in the "Orr Division," the Bantam AE Tanners secured their seed in the semi-finals on December 14 at 11am squaring off against the "port Perry Predators who finished second in the "Gretzky Division." Once again a fast paced, hard hitting game ensued, but it would be Acton who would throw Port Perry off their game as the physical Tanners pressured the Predators into coughing up the rubber deep in their zone. This play allowed Carter Ebbinge and Evan Oulton to feed Eric Butson who fired off a blast of rubber that ruffled the Predators' netting.

A scoreless second period would come and go with both teams testing each other's limitations to the "nth degree." Early in the third Port Perry provided their fans with a reason to cheer with a well placed shot violating Acton's blue and giving the



**SILVER STICK CHAMPIONS:** Acton's Bantam AE Tanners captured the championship at the Highland Storm International Silver Stick (Regional Group 3-5) in Haliburton on Dec. 13-14, 2008. Team members include: Front, Justin Payne, Mason Overland. 2nd row, Jeff Curry, Will Richards, Matt Fritz, Carter Ebbinge, Eric Butson, Ryan Millington, Evan Oulton. 3rd row, Dave Butson (coach), Michael Fatrdia. 4th row, Bill Curry, (asst. coach), James Dawkins, Jonathon Paquin-Felske, Mitchell Griffith, Gord Fritz (trainer), Josh Martin, TJ Baker, Connor Hitchcock, Eric Vlastic, Mike Griffiths (trainer). Missing, Ryan Payne. - Submitted photo

Predators an even-up marker.

The Tanners pressed on displaying the grit and determination that had carried them this far. With less than 40 seconds elapsing from the predator breach, Eric Butson managed to intercept a Predator pass to feed TJ Baker. He gave the Tanner the go ahead notch by placing the rubber precisely under the crossbar.

An all-out offensive attack launched by the Predators in this do or die game was repulsed by a strong Tanner defensive wall.

### Semi Final Championship Final Score:

#### Acton 2- Port Perry 1

The 2pm championship game saw the Bantam AE Tanners square off against the first place "Gretzky Division" winners, the Port Hope Phantoms." With the clock using up only 19 seconds, a proficient Phantom winger carved his way down the ice and managed to breach Acton's cage much to the chagrin of Tanner supporters.

A strong offensive attack by the Tanners was stone-walled by the Port Hope net-minder for the rest of the first period.

The second and third period saw a newly refocused Tanner team put the steel to the ice as TJ Baker stick fed Eric Butson allowing him to find the crack in the Phantom wall, light the lamp and gave the Tanners the even-up marker to finish off the second period.

Early in the third period Connor Hitchcock continued to chip away at the wall, ruffling the mesh on a pass from Michael Fatrdla. TJ Baker scored Acton's in-

insurance goal unassisted.

Port Hope pressed on and elevated the games' intensity with an array of attacks. With over three minutes still ticking on the clock an extra Phantom sniper was placed on the ice in lieu of a net-minder giving Port Hope the offensive edge.

Phantom pressure kept

play locked in Tanner territory as seconds disappeared from the scoreboard but Acton remained unwavering. Numerous icing calls only used up a fraction of the clock. Then Connor Hitchcock managed to intercept a pass and feed TJ Baker who then carved his way into open ice and fire off one final marker

into the unguarded net to ultimately seal the Phantoms' fate.

### Championship game final score:

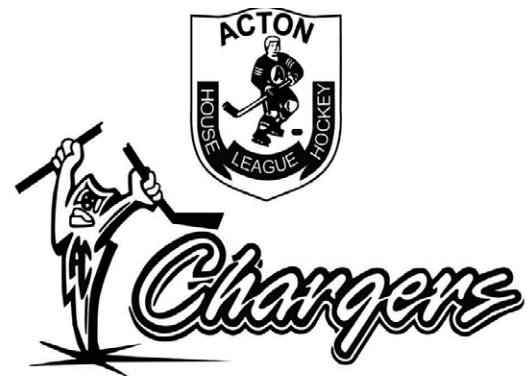
#### Acton 4 - Port Hope 1

With knowledge and skills acquired from the coaching/managerial staff of Dave Butson, Bill Curry, Mike Griffiths, Gord and Arlene Fritz, a concerted team effort was put forth by each and every member of the team culminating in the tournament victory. There was an exceptional performance by the offensive team of Jeff Curry, Eric Butson, Ryan Millington, Mitchell Griffiths, Connor Hitchcock, TJ Baker, Eric Vlastic, Jonathon Paquin-Felske, Evan Oulton and Carter Ebbinge.

The tenacious defensive team of Will Richards, Michael Fatrdla, Matt Fritz, Joshua Martin, Ryan Payne and James Dawkins maintained a wall of resistance almost impenetrable.

Goal tending expertise by cage wizards, Justin Payne and Mason Overland secured Acton's blue, and ensured the mesh remained wrinkle free.

Congratulations Tanners!



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