

# McKenzie-Smith takes trophy in annual four-school hockey bout

McKenzie-Smith Phantoms captured the North Halton Public School Hockey championship with some help from a couple of players inherited from last year's runner up team.

The Phantoms clipped Georgetown's Centennial School 2-1 in a close checking match which was only settled in sudden death overtime. Stewarttown and Milton's Fairview school also competed in the one-day annual tournament in the community centre last Wednesday.

Wellington-Waterloo League minor bantam players Rob Vermeulen and Mark Duval contributed nine goals and six assists between

them in the McKenzie-Smith push for the trophy. According to Mak-Smith coach Bob Coleman, Vermeulen and Duval played on the Robert Little school squad last year when it took the runner up trophy.

When McKenzie-Smith Middle School opened last fall it absorbed grades seven and eight from M.Z. Bennett and Robert Little Schools. Stewarttown and Centennial are also middle schools and Fairview has grades kindergarten to eight.

Under the tourney rules Mak-Smith and Fairview were permitted to use some rep team players while Cen-

tennial and Stewarttown were not. It was thought by organizers the Georgetown and Stewarttown schools would have a large enough pool of pupils from which to form contending teams. To balance the competition small Mak-Smith could use two rep players and the smaller Fairview five. Last year, without the balance formula, Fairview won the tournament. This time it finished on the bottom.

Centennial went immediately into the championship game after bombing Fairview ten to nothing. McKenzie-Smith and Centennial were already in the finals because they finished in the

upper half of the round-robin series. Centennial was a slight favorite over Mak-Smith because the Georgetown team ended up on top of the round-robin and also because its first points of the day came from a 3-1 victory over the Acton school.

McKenzie-Smith, however, had about a hundred other factors in its favor: principal Gary Dawkins dismissed the middle school classes a few minutes early so McKenzie-Smith cheerers could do their stuff at 3 p.m.

Several parents were also at the game. Just 33 seconds away from the end of regulation time,

with McKenzie-Smith nuring a one to zip lead, Centennial's Kevin Willcocks scored on a pass from Shane Lefebvre. That sent the two fired sides into overtime where the next goal won it all.

Mak-Smith's Duval was the next to pull the trigger from Dean Hughes and Tom Shannon.

Tom Briggs gave McKenzie-Smith its one goal lead, with his fourth goal of the series, mid-way through the last period. Duval and Hughes picked up the assists.

Hilda Clark, the Halton Board's physical education and health consultant for the north, handed out the trophies and crests.

Three points were awarded for a win in the tourney; two for a tie and one for a loss in the round robin. Centennial won all its three games for nine points. McKenzie-Smith won two and lost one for seven points. Stewarttown won one game, against Fairview, and lost two. Fairview lost all its games.

Fairview, with about 90 boys to draw a team upon, fielded only three of the five rep team players it was permitted in the competition.

McKenzie-Smith sharpshooters included: Vermeulen with five goals and one assist, Duval, four goals and five assists, Briggs with four goals and one assist,

Murray Gavin, two goals and one assist, Hughes one goal and four assists, three assists from Paul Phelan and two each from Shannon and Fred Kappert.

First year goalie Rob Munro, except for a stint by mate Duane McCoy, went the distance in Mak-Smith's nets.

Other members of the championship team are: Dean McKerracher, Ted Gunn, Mark Kri, Dave Dunn, Mark Dawkins, Brian Steckley, Greg Maltby, Bill Morrison, Dan Gibson and Kevin Krull.

"They are very coachable group of fine young men as far as I'm concerned. A credit to the school and Acton," McKenzie-Smith coach Bob Coleman said. Teacher Coleman coached five Robert Little School teams to the North Halton finals.

He said the McKenzie-Smith team showed much intestinal fortitude by winning the championship game from the team it lost the first game to.

Tourney convener Carl Hymers, vice-principal at McKenzie-Smith, said he very much appreciated the donation of services for the day by the Acton Referees Association—especially Ray Knowlan, Robin Inscow, Charlie Payne, Rick Gibson, Derek Neeley and Dave Murchison.

Mr. Hymers also thanked the town arena staff and Mak-Smith pupils who took care of game sheets, timing and other chores.



**MCKENZIE-SMITH TEAM** after winning the North Halton School Hockey championship last week. The team includes Dean McKerracher, Ted Gunn, Mark Kri, Dave Dunn, Mark Dawkins, Brian Steckley, Greg Maltby, Bill Morrison, Dan Gibson, Kevin Krull, Rob Munro, Duane McCoy, Fred Kappert, Paul Phelan, Tom Briggs, Murray Gavin, Tom Shannon, Mark Duval, Rob Vermeulen and Dean Hughes.

## Golden Puck tourney

# Major atoms champs as Hudson voted MVP

Acton major atoms were in Port Colborne for a tune-up to keep them in trim for their upcoming OMHA final series against Milton and while they were there, they walked away with the Grand Champion trophy in the Golden Puck Tournament.

In addition, captain Mike Hudson was awarded the most valuable player award for the series.

The atoms took the championship with wins over Caledonia, Burford and Midland.

The Caledonia contest was the easiest of the wins as Acton blanked the losers 4-0. Acton opened the scoring at 5:25 of the first period, as Hudson connected unassisted. In the second period Hudson broke through for his second goal, this one from Bruce Raine. Hudson completed his hat trick in the third period with an unassisted point then fed Raine for the final score of the game.

Steven Tallifer was perfect between the posts as he recorded the shutout, and the entire team played well.

Burford took Acton to overtime before the locals could earn a 3-2 win. The star defenceman for Burford, Robbie Verusacke, opened the scoring with just 1:34 gone. Tony Van Dam evened the scoring at 6:17 from Hudson.

The second period was scoreless although the play was an end to end affair, with Tallifer coming up with some great stops. According to manager Bob Raine, the defence was superb in checking and clearing the puck and the forwards were back checking.

At 6:13 of the third period Hudson scored from Raine to put Acton in front 2-1. Burford scored again to tie it up, forcing the overtime.

The ten minute sudden death or shots on goal overtime started with each team taking no chances, passing the puck very carefully. Burford had Acton with two shots on goal to none when Hudson picked the puck up at his own blueline, streaked down the ice and blasted it past the Burford goalie.

The checking of Raine and Jamie Lawson limited Verusacke to hardly any shots on goal. He did not even try his big rushes after his only goal in the first period. This win put Acton into the "A" championships.

Acton was a little shaky in the first despite good crowd support with Midland opening the scoring to take a 2-0 lead. It was end to end play until Hudson broke loose and scored at 8:22 unassisted. With 30 seconds left in the period Hudson scored again from Robbie Porte.

Midland scored again at 8:19 of the second period to go ahead 3-2. Twenty eight seconds later Terry Danagher tied it up from Sandy Waites with a great rush down the ice.

The score stayed tied throughout the quick moving third period until Hudson won

it with just 35 seconds left. During the tourney Hudson took part in a Tourney Showdown, to compete in shooting at a mystery goaltender who this year was wearing a Chico Resch sweater. Hudson was blanked in the contest while the campaign of the Fort Erie team connected on two of his three shots.

Hudson was picked the MVP of the tourney, which involved twenty teams over three days. He scored eight of the atom's ten goals and received a large wooden shield which he keeps and his name will go on the big trophy which stays at Port Colborne.

The coaches, managers and team congratulate him for his great achievement.

Coaches Andy Berry and Bob Raine are very proud of the team for winning the tournament and every player

played well in all three games. Each player received an individual trophy as well as the championship trophy which stays in Port Colborne.

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**April 1 - 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Age Classification 6 years as of January 1, 1978

NOTE: All players wishing to play on rep teams must be registered by March 25, 1978.

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Squirts ..... Under 11	Atoms ..... Under 9
Pee Wee ..... Under 13	Squirts ..... Under 11
Bantam ..... Under 15	Pee Wee ..... Under 13
Midjet ..... Under 17	Bantam ..... Under 15
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