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Bantam teams battle for playoffs

After losing 4-2 to Kincardine on Wednesday night at Alcott Arena, Georgetown was in danger of not reaching the playoffs of their 31st annual Bantam tournament.

Georgetown began their three game round robin by tying Acton 3-3, but the loss Wednesday forced them to rely on a win against Nepean yesterday (Thursday) with the hope that Kincardine lost to Nepean earlier in the day. Acton is in first with a tie and a win and needs only a tie against Nepean to secure top spot.

In the Georgetown-Kincardine game, Kincardine opened the scoring at 3:27 of the first period when Georgetown's goalie lost track of the puck when it bounced off the boards behind him and deflected onto the stick of a Kincardine player in the slot.

Georgetown evened it up at 1:57 of the second on a screen play in front of the net. Kincardine responded at 4:20 when one of their wingers got behind Georgetown's defencemen to receive a pass for a breakthrough.

Kincardine got the winner in the third period, converting a two-on-one rush by beating Georgetown's netminder high on the glove-side. The visitors notched another by scoring on the power play.

In other D division play, Oshawa finished first in D2 and will play the second place finisher of Georgetown's group (Acton, Nepean, Kincardine). Salt Fleet, the second place finisher in D2, will play the top finisher of D1.

A Division

With their 6-4 win over Brampton Wednesday night, Halton was insured of a playoff berth in their division and could finish third if

Brampton tied or defeated Wexford on Thursday. If top placed Buffalo withdraws from the tournament due to other commitments, Halton could wind up in second and face the fourth place qualifier in the divisional semi-final.

B Division

Hillcrest grabbed first in B2 division with a 5-0 over

Chinguacousy on Wednesday night. York Toros finished in second. Both teams were awaiting the outcomes of B1 games to be completed as of press time.

C Division

Guelph took first place in C2, with Woolwich in second. They were waiting for the results of the Scarborough-Leamington game, which would decide who would

advance with Owen Sound to play them in the semi-finals.

Division semi-finals begin at 10:30 a.m. today (Friday) and continue until approximately 10:00 p.m. Divisional finals begin at 8:00 a.m. Saturday, with the grand championship semi-finals at 2:30 and 4:00 p.m. The grand championship final is at 8:00 p.m.



Georgetown's Bantam goalie smothers the puck as defenceman Ryan Hay makes sure the Kincardine shooter doesn't get a second chance. After opening their 31st Annual Tournament with a 3-3 tie

against Acton, Georgetown lost 4-2 to Kincardine and needed a win yesterday (Thursday) against Nepean to advance to the playoffs. (Herald photo)

SPORT SHORTS

Win a trip

Halton Hills residents have a chance to win air transportation for two anywhere within the continental United States, plus \$1,000 cash by buying lucky draw tickets for the 15th Annual Bill Smith Invitational Golf Tournament.

Tickets are \$5 each and can be obtained at: Bill Smith Auto Parts, 334 Guelph St., Canadian Cancer Society office, 164 Guelph St., Ken's Auto Service, 61 Guelph St., or Brown's Auto Wrecking, R.R.1.

Nine medals for skaters

Five members of the Georgetown Figure Skating Club brought home nine medals from the Western Ontario Section Winter Invitational Figure Skate Competition held in Sarnia March 8-10.

Danielle Dembie and Tara Hart won two gold medals each, with Dembie earning them in freeskate and compulsory elements, while Hart took top spot in her group for freeskate and compulsory moves.

Katie Cochrane and Rose-Marie Gimeno each won a pair of silver medals with Cochrane earning them in freeskate and compulsory elements and Gimeno getting them for freeskate and compulsory moves. Lesley Watson took the bronze medal for interpretive.

Reding skiers

Bishop Reding's junior boys and junior girls cross country ski teams qualified for the Ontario Nordic Ski Championships by capturing first place at the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference championships held in Collingwood on Feb. 14, but were stopped cold at the provincial meet.

The Ontario championships took place on Feb. 28 and March 1 at Hardwood Hills in Barrie. Reding's skiers posted many personal best times, but failed to finish in the medals.

The teams, which included Phillip Jacob, Jeff Plasschaert, Matt Thompson, Andrew Thompson, Lia Vandenhock, Lisa Platt, Lisa Reid, Sandy Bauer, Jodie Heslop, Milica Bago and Lynne Ann Clarke, have their sights set on an OFSSA trip to Ottawa for the provincial championships next year.

Bridge club

Georgetown's Duplicate Bridge Club's winners of this week's play at the Legion were 1. Elsie Whitham and Harry Arbie. 2. Blaine Hillock and Mike Lorusso. 3. Diane Johnson and Diane Adams.

Successful baton club lacks support



Coach Darlene King stands behind her two top baton twirlers, Andrea Chisholm (left) and Susan Thibodeau, as they pose with the Canadian Grand National Championship and the U.S. Open International Championship trophies they won in the past year. Despite the successes, the sport is struggling in Ontario due to a lack of funding from Queen's Park. (Herald photo)

After winning provincial, national and international competitions, local baton coach Darlene King maintains the sport of baton in Ontario receives little respect.

King, head of King's National Baton Club in Georgetown, said baton has been a recognized sport for over seven years, but has yet to receive funding from Queen's Park, something which has put a lot of pressure on her athletes.

"We have to travel a lot to take part in competitions. This year, our top people need to go to New York this weekend, to Saskatchewan next month and then to Calgary for the national championships in July. If we win, we'll have to raise money to compete in the world championships in Venice, Italy."

King said getting to the provincial finals aren't too difficult to afford, but with the national and international competitions moving around each year, the expenses can be difficult to cover.

"Clubs I'm involved with outside of Ontario receive support from their governments and also raise money through casinos and bingos. The bingo halls here are booked up for the next three years."

As a result of the money situation, King said she has approached the local service clubs, appealing for some help. She said she is still in the process of contacting all of the groups and is hopeful of a positive response.

The exploits of two of her athletes, Andrea Chisholm and Susan Thibodeau, have helped to highlight the success of the local

club and their need for a travelling fund.

Last month, Andrea and Susan received municipal awards for their winning performances at the Canadian National Championships last July in Montreal and again in August at the U.S. International Open Championships in San Antonio, Texas.

Both girls have been a part of the local group since it was known as the Georgetown Elkettes before its name was changed in 1985. Thibodeau competed just last weekend at the Spring Open Baton Twirling Competition at Eastwood College in Kitchener, winning the freestyle category and the solo division with a flawless performance.

King said the battle against the stereotypical "majorette" image continues. Even the suggestion that baton twirling is not a serious sport or that it is still linked to the half time show offends King and her athletes.

"Baton takes the best from gymnastics and dance and combines them with an endless variety of spectacular effects when the baton is manipulated with speed and precision. In many ways, it's similar to rhythmic gymnastics," said King.

King said the club is presently selling raffle tickets to try and assist their financial situation and is trying hard to coordinate with a Scarborough group to share a bingo event. In the meantime, she is hoping further success in New York and Calgary will help promote the group and its needs to the community.