

THUNDER KEEP SILVER STICK TITLE IN CANADA

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When the Halton Hills Thunder edged Michigan's KV Raiders 2-1 in the quarter-finals, the idea of winning the International Silver Stick tournament in Sarnia took on a whole new meaning.

To that point, there were four Canadian teams still in the running for the title. But Newmarket, North York (the top two ranked teams in Ontario) and Ottawa Valley all suffered one goal losses, leaving Halton Hills and three American teams to vie for the championship.

"The whole idea of representing Canada came into play," said Thunder coach Blake Seaton. "It wasn't real-

ly pressure, they were more motivated by it."

Halton Hills went on to ensure the title would stay north of the border, doubling Pennsylvania's Haverford Hawks 4-2 in the semis before downing Team Midwest 4-1 in the championship game to become the first local midget AA team to an International Silver Stick title.

"As a team, we were just excited to make the trip," said Seaton, whose team qualified by edging Brampton in overtime in the regional final. "To win it as a team, there were some eyes filling up."

The Thunder went undefeated in six games (5-0-1) in Sarnia. Facing Midwest - a tournament team com-



Halton Hills Thunder

The Halton Hills Thunder defeated Iowa-based Team Midwest 4-1 to win the International Silver Stick midget AA championship. Team members are: (back row, from left) coach Blake Seaton, trainer Michelle Serafini, Tanner Fischen, Stuart MacDonald, Ross Kelleher, Jack Reid, Campbell Coleman, Justin Calisto, Nolan Hodgson, Ryan Leslie, Daniel Cannon, assistant coaches Shane Trumble and Ian Seaton, (middle row, from left) Matthew Adkins, John Bydevaate, Ethan Morrow, Luke Miehm, Brett Hodgson, Kody Trumble and (front) John Emmerson.

prised of the best AA and AAA players from Iowa that was riding a 15-game winning streak heading into final - the Thunder jumped in front early.

Halton Hills got a power-play goal five minutes in and then added a short-handed marker in the second period to take a two-goal advantage into the third.

Midwest got one back

early in the third, but having not trailed a game at any point in the tournament, the Thunder were not about to let their opponents change that. Halton Hills restored its two-goal edge with seven minutes left and sealed the win with a late goal.

The victory will earn the Thunder a spot in the Hockey Hall of Fame. The team will be added to a plaque

with the other division champions that will be displayed in the hall.

Defenceman Tanner Fischen was named to the Silver Stick all-star team. Goalies Mathew Adkins and Josh Emmerson allowed just six goals in 10 games.

The Thunder opened the tournament with a 3-1 win over the Atlanta Phoenix. It followed that with a 2-2 tie

against the Ottawa Valley Aces and then secured a spot in the quarter-finals by doubling the Markham Waxers 6-3.

The Thunder now have their sights set on adding an Ontario Minor Hockey Association title. "Our end goal is to get to the OHF's (Ontario Hockey Federation Championships)," Seaton said.

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