



**STRONG CHALLENGE:** Acton's Ellis Lavallee fought for this puck, taking it up the ice for a nice shot, but no goal, against visiting Burlington on Saturday. Burlington edged the Acton Major Novice Tanners 3-2. — Frances Niblock photo

## Minor Novices struggle with eight games in ten days

By JUDITH KIRKNESS

The Carquest Acton Minor Novice Tanners continued their most intense hockey of the year, as they played eight games in only 10 days. First off was Hespeler visiting Acton on the 8<sup>th</sup>, with Acton losing 2-0. Both goalies Jesse Harris and Zachary Payne played well, each allowing only a single goal. The 9<sup>th</sup> brought first place Orangeville to town, and they were too strong, beating the Tanners 5-0. Goalie Jesse Harris only allowed a single goal in the face of numerous shots. Acton had no shots on goal, though Nicholas Eagan came close on a good rush.

On the 11<sup>th</sup>, the team headed for Bradford for a three game tournament, unfortunately consisting of three games on three separate days. First was against host Bradford, and it was a close, exciting game. Bradford scored first, but Acton replied with a goal by Captain Jesse Spurrell, assisted by leading scorer Nicholas Eagan and defenceman Dylan Cremona. Bradford scored again, but again Acton answered, this time on a shot from in front by Nicholas Eagan, on the rebound from an initial shot by Mitchell Brake. Bradford again scored to take the lead,

but Acton struggled to come back. Roger Kirkness went in on a clean break-away, but the play was whistled dead due to an injury to a Bradford player behind the Acton net.

Coach Bruce Chiasson pulled goalie Zachary Payne partway through the third period, but this time it did not work out, with Bradford ultimately scoring a couple of empty-net goals, to win 5-2.

On Saturday the 12<sup>th</sup> it was back to Bradford to take on Oshawa. Oshawa jumped out to a 2-0 lead, but coach Chiasson again pulled the goalie, and this time it paid off as Nicholas Eagan started the comeback with a goal from out front on a pass from Chris Chiasson, with Jesse Spurrell also drawing an assist. Oshawa scored again to go up 3-1, but Acton again came back, and it was again Nicholas Eagan leading the way. Eagan scored his second goal on the rebound of a long-range shot by Roger Kirkness, and scored his third goal of the game the same way, this time after doing some digging for the puck in front of the net. Acton pressed for the winning goal but could not convert, and the game ended in a 3-3 tie.

Sunday the 13<sup>th</sup> it was back to Bradford one more time, this time to face the

fighting Navajo from Cooksville. Cooksville scored very quickly to quiet the Acton crowd, but Acton came back to tie, and again it was Nicholas Eagan and Jesse Spurrell combining for the goal, this time Spurrell scoring with Eagan drawing the assist. Inseparable off the ice, Eagan and Spurrell combined on three of Acton's seven goals in the tournament, with Eagan in on three more. Acton's only goal scored without the benefit of Nicholas Eagan was scored by Cameron Hryciw, out of a scramble in front, to tie the game at two. Hryciw was happy to score his first goal of the season, while taking a turn at forward after playing most of the season on defence.

Unfortunately Cooksville scored late in the third period to take a 3-2 lead, and that was how it ended.

Finally the regular season ended on the 14<sup>th</sup> in Caledon. The game started well for Acton as Roger Kirkness broke in on the defence, slipped the puck through the defenceman's legs to break in cleanly, then put the puck past the Caledon goalie to give the Tanners the 1-0 lead. It was a power-play goal, which coach Chiasson later described as being one of the nicest he had seen all year.

The first period went well for Acton, the line of John White, Brandon Lockyer and Dylan Cremona got lots of ice time and had some good chances. Unfortunately the rest of the game did not go so well for Acton, they remained penalty free, but Caledon scored ten unanswered goals to win 10-1.

### Minor PeeWees down Milton 2-1

Acton Minor PeeWees wrapped up the regular season with a well deserved 2-1 win over hosts Milton on Wednesday, January 9.

The game was scoreless until the 6 minute mark of the first period when Milton scored to take the lead. However, less than one minute into the second period, Josh Essiembre scored the tying goal on an unassisted effort. Acton dominated play for the remainder of the period.

The Tanners took a 2-1 lead in the third period when Ken Wenzel potted what proved to be the winning goal, again unassisted, with 14.32 left on the clock.

## Major Novices edged by Milton

By Chris Kutasienski

Acton Major Novice Tanners finished their regular season schedule at home against the Burlington Eagles. Acton played tough and had the lead for the majority of the game and in offence, but suffered a 3-2 loss.

The Tanners got on the scoreboard first when mid-

way into the first period Jake Hnatiw puched in a rebound off of a Stephen Wolstenholm blast from the point. Burlington came back with one of their own to end the first in a 1-1 tie.

Early in the second, Mitchell Webster broke up the left side with a full head of steam, rushed in on the netminder and scored, what

is quickly becoming his trademark, end to end goal to snap the tie and put Acton up 2-1. The trio of Ellis Lavallee, Brandon Masini and Garret Kri stirred up several opportunities and if it wasn't for an all star save by the Eagle goalie off a blast from Lavallee's stick, the Tanners would have opened up an even larger lead.

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