

Major Bantams string five wins, tie together

By Chuck Tysoe

Acton's Major Bantam Tanners, after the major disappointment occasioned by

Major Bantams...

Continued from Page 9.

Greg Boughton scoring once and Brett Hirtle shutting out the home side.

Thursday, Acton skated to a 5-1 victory at Burlington. Mark Boycott was sent streaking through centre by Matt Freckleton, butting in to score with only 20 seconds elapsed. Boycott shortly returned the favour, setting up Freckleton for a power-play goal. Early in the second, Freckleton, who enjoyed a very effective night, cut inside his man in the slot to drill home Jon Tysoe's clean faceoff win just three seconds into another man advantage. Tysoe then capped his strong play by stealing the puck behind the Burlington net and popping in his third close-in attempt.

Jason Beatty completed the scoring in a game needing all of Jordan Guindon's skill and excellent technique as Burlington produced many excellent chances but no timely scoring, their only goal coming down 0-3.

Open Tri-County

Acton opened the Tri-County run with a home win over Dundas, winners of two regular season games. Ironically Dundas, a determined

their elimination from Provincial playoffs, have quietly put together a string of six games without a loss in Tri-County round-robin competition.

but none too dynamic squad, may nevertheless have been a key factor in Acton's shocking and sudden elimination from the Provincial playoffs by Saugeen Shores last month. The Tanners swept the Blues 3-0 in a lacklustre series that did not call for the type of effort the boys would need for more legitimate opponents.

The vagaries of OMHA scheduling called for games in Port Elgin on successive nights, against a team smarting from a 7-1 shellacking at the Tanners' hands during the Silver Stick in Midland over Christmas. The Acton club was handed a pair of stinging setbacks, 6-4 and 7-2. Facing elimination, the boys produced a magnificent effort at home, easily the best hockey they have played over two seasons, and to at least one observer, the most entertaining hockey seen on Acton ice this season.

Brett Manes' goal in the second period held up until two, really unearned, third period markers from Saugeen, the second with only three minutes left. Heart-breaking, yes, but this team produced its best hockey ever when they needed it the most.

Heading into this week's action against Oakville and Flamborough, Acton had five wins and one tie. Their fifth and latest victory came on Thursday at Brampton's Victoria Park Arena, where the Battalion fell behind 5-1 with less than nine minutes left, but put together a late three goal Resurgence within a three-minute span to trail 5-4 with :39 on the clock. Acton winger Al Dube augered himself into the playing surface putting in a long backhand with 10 seconds left to blow up Brampton's goalie-out comeback bid.

Brampton opened the scoring less than two minutes in, but Acton's Pat Collins tied it late, and unassisted, in the first and the Tanners built a 3-1 lead in the second on Greg Boughton's tip off Chad Artem's low point drive and Troy Ethier's howitzer from Kurtis McArthur's feed. Matt Bronizewski completed Acton's scoring in the third, first from Matt Freckleton, then going in alone on a pass from Collins as the Battalion were AWOL on the ugliest line change since Jean Chretien's GST promise. Full credit, however, to the Battalion who never lost their cool and manufactured an elegant series of goals to draw closer.

Wednesday in Acton, Erin captain Calvin Mustard, a thorn in the Tanner's hide all evening, slithered his way through four defenders, to tie the game at two with less than two minutes on the clock. It spoiled Acton's chance to avenge a 6-4 season-ending drubbing by Erin, one of only two teams to beat them in league play. Eric Goll's second-period marker had staked the home side to a 2-1 lead, a pretty effort as he came off the blue line to drill home a short-side wrist shot. Acton's other goal came in the first on a similar play, as McArthur beautifully fed Ethier jumping off the blue line.

SPORTS

Halton Pee Wees capture silver at World Championships

Halton Hurricanes Pee Wees won Silver in the International "A" Division at the 2002 Quebec Invitational Pee Wee World Championships - February 14-24, 2002 in Quebec City. The Hurricanes also won the Trophy for the Top Canadian Team in an International Division and received a standing ovation from the 10,000 plus fans on hand.

The Halton Hurricanes 2001-2002 Pee Wee team was the first Halton team to be selected to compete in the World Championships. The Hurricanes joined teams from 15 countries from around the World. More than 200,000 spectators took in the action as the young local players joined past NHL superstars such as Guy Lafleur, Marcel Dionne and Wayne Gretzky, and current Canadian Olympians Mario Lemieux and Eric Lindros, Brendan Shanahan, Simon Gagne, Ed Jovanovski and Steve Yzerman who have participated in the tournament.

The Hurricanes started the tournament with a thrilling 5 to 4 overtime victory against Bratislava, Slovakia. Goals were scored by Arron Alphonso, Sean Dowell, Jeff Bayley, Jason St. Jean and Matt Price (overtime goal), with assists going to Garrett Noiles, Michael Kosziwka, Chris Darling, Scott Maurice, Matt Price, Erik Vos, Jeff Bayley, Sean Dowell and Arron Alphonso. The winning goalie was Jonathan Sousa.

The second game saw the local team defeat the Quebec Citadelles 3 to 1. Matt Price opened the scoring from Michael Kosziwka and



SILVER MEDALLISTS: Left to right, local Halton players Daniel Woolford, Michael Kosziwka and Chris Darling of Halton Hurricanes show their trophies and medals from the World championships.

Garrett Noiles. Scott Maurice scored from Matt Davis and Tyler Muleahy. Jeff Bayley scored the insurance goal from Matt Davis and Matlock Bobeckko. The winning goalie was Chris Bragger.

In the third game the Hurricanes defeated the top ranked team from the United States, Detroit HoneyBaked by a score of 2 to 1. Scoring for the Hurricanes was Erik Vos from Matt Price, and Jeff Bayley from Acton shooter Daniel Woolford. Jonathan Sousa notched his second win in goal.

In the Championship game the Hurricanes came up short against the team from Chonlutov, Czech Republic losing 5 to 1. Arron Alphonso scored the lone goal assisted by Sean Dowell and Matt Davis. In Quebec exhibition

games the local team won against the Boston Eagles 4 to 3, New York Islanders 2 to 1 and the Connecticut whalers 4 to 2.

The Hurricanes also finished the regular season in first place with a record of 22 wins, 4 losses and 5 ties, with an impressive 136 goals scored for (4.4/game) and only 59 against (1.9/game) and included a string of five straight shut-outs near the end of the season.

The Halton team also advanced to the third play-off round against Stoney Creek, with three straight wins against Burlington by scores of 5-2, 6-2, 4-0. A series win against Stoney Creek will advance the team to the OMHA Championship Tournament for the second straight year.

Minor Atoms up 2-0 in St. Marys' series

Acton Minor Atoms are up two games in their best-of-five series with St. Marys following games on the weekend.

The team started the OMHA semi-finals against St. Marys on Saturday, March 2, in Acton. Acton dominated most of the play but weren't able to get many shots on net. In the first period, Brandyn McCarthy scored off of some great passing by Drew Backman and Bradley Kri.

The rest of the game was exciting to watch but no more goals were scored by either team and Acton would come away with a 1-0 win.

On Sunday, March 3, they travelled to St. Marys and played another great game, winning 6-4. Riley McGilloway scored twice and Tyler Hillhouse, Dylan Creasey, Bradley Kri, and Brandyn McCarthy each had singles. Assists were had by Jessy Kuenzig (2), Drew Backman, Scott Hofland, Taylor McNabb and Brandyn McCarthy.

The next game of the series is this Friday, March 8 in

St. Marys. An Acton win will clinch the series.

Stouffville...

Continued from Page 9.

the empty net, from Kirkness and Eagan, as Acton won 5-3.

Jesse Harris allowed only a single goal in his half game for Acton, to lower his team leading goals-against average to 2.96. Jake Lewis was awarded the Tanner towel for his effort on defence, as he dived to block shots and hold off the Stouffville defenders. Mitchell Brake was awarded the MVP medal for his strong effort.

Acton entered the third game of the tournament with a chance to advance, if they could beat Whitby, but Whitby were all over the Tanners, winning 5-0. Zachary Payne went the distance in the Acton net and played a great game, as the score could have been much higher, were it not for some great saves that he made.

Payne was awarded the MVP medal, while Cameron Carr collected the Tanner towel for his efforts on the Acton defence.

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