

# Peewee 'A' Tanners sweep Fergus from playoffs

BY MARK WARREN

The brooms were out at the Acton arena on Sunday as the Heartland Shipping Supplies Peewee 'A' Tanners swept their archrivals from Fergus three games to zero in their best of five first round OMHA playoffs.

The Tanners sealed the playoff series with a convincing 4-1 win over the Highlanders in a chippy affair that saw 17 minor penalties called. In game three the Tanners were led by Scott Weber's two goals. Singles went to Riley McGilloway and Jessy Kuenzig. Kuenzig's

ever-reliable linemates Bradley Kri and Brandyn McCarthy each recorded two assists, with single assists going to Dylan Creasey and defenceman Liam Robertson.

In game three the Tanners jumped to a 2-0 first period lead and maintained the two-goal margin through the second period, leading 4-1. The third period was scoreless.

Goaltender Jason Shaw, in his first OMHA playoff series, recorded two of the three Tanners victories, earning the victory in games three as well as the opener last weekend. Shaw was stellar in goal in game

three as he was in the opening contest.

In game two played last Sunday in Fergus, Creasey was the hero, scoring in the fourth minute of overtime to lead the Tanners to a 5-4 victory. The Tanners had a 3-1 lead midway though the second period on goals by Kuenzig, McGilloway and Creasey. However, the home town Highlanders, recognizing that a loss in game two would make victory in the series all but impossible, stepped up the physical play and began to intimidate the Tanners.

A goal in the second

period and two goals early in the third period gave Fergus a 4-3 lead with just over 10 minutes to play. However, the turning point in favour of Acton came just over 40 seconds later when the visiting Tanners were handed not one but two penalties on the same play, leaving them two men short. Rather than buckling under the building momentum for the Highlanders, the Tanners through the brilliant penalty-killing by Scott Hofland, Tysoe and Kuenzig, spelled by Robertson and McCarthy

and backed by the superb goaltending of Joss Warren, who recorded the win, kept Fergus from scoring a much needed insurance maker.

The Tanners obviously took strength from their penalty-killing prowess and the renewed vigor led to a tying goal by Weber with four minutes left, setting the scene for Creasey's overtime heroics.

In the series' opening game the Tanners broke a 1-1 tie with four unanswered goals in the third period to cruise to a

5-1 victory. Kri led the way with a hat trick and McCarthy and Gord McKeon added singles. McCarthy and Kuenzig each added two assists with Kri, Robertson and David Tysoe adding single helpers.

Whereas games two and three were very physical and penalty-filled, the opening contest was free flowing, which suited the Tanners' more skilled passing attack.

The Tanners now move on to the second round to play Saugeen Shores with the best of five series starting Saturday, January 25.

## Major Midgets take 2-1 lead in series with Fergus club

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a hard shot off the goal stick that the trailing Macdonald found for the tap-in. Then McArthur, pressed into blueline duties, jumped off the Fergus line to snap home a silky feed in the slot from Mark Boycott.

Acton's offensive leader of the night, Boycott had set up Pat Collins with another lovely pass early in the second period to even the score at one. He finished the second period breaking a 2-2 tie on a pass from Collins, putting Acton ahead for good. The goal came on a quick counter-attack after Fergus squandered a glorious two on one with a wide bad angled shot, one of many poor choices on the night costing them good opportunities.

The line of Jon Tysoe, Jason Beatty and Nick Ridler helped Acton survive a lacklustre first period, won 1-0 by the visitors, as they provided the Tanners' only real sustained pressure, keeping the puck deep and creating mayhem around the net with several outstanding shifts. Tysoe in particular went unrewarded for his efforts on four or five glittering chances on the night. Boycott, Collins and Ceccotti took over in the second, producing the tying and 2-1 go-ahead goals in a 50 second span; defencemen and Captain Eric Goll gave Tanners the lead creeping into the slot to take a feed from Ceccotti and one-time a low hummer into the net. Armstrong, Pembleton, Ridler and Macdonald were third period stalwarts as their

five points and three goals kept Acton ahead.

This was a balanced team effort with seven goal scorers and nine players sharing 13 scoring points. Kudos to the defence corps, down to four players; double shifting is no easy task at this level but Brett Manes, Eric Goll, Greg Boughton and Kurtis McArthur have been getting it done.

Tim Pembleton from Neil Armstrong and Nick Ridler, also from Armstrong, closed out the scoresheet for the Tanners. Both goals proved vital; Pembleton's marker came four minutes after Fergus quickly came back to 5-3, and Ridler's only 37 seconds after the visitors had made it 6-4 with three minutes remaining.

Fergus' last score came on the man-advantage making them two for three on the night while Acton was 0 for 2. The five minor penalties handed out were a significant turnaround from the 38 minutes the teams racked up in Monday's 3-2 opening victory by Acton in Fergus, including nine minors by the visitors leading to both Fergus scores.

Game two opened and continued with a much lower pace and intensity level than the spirited opener which was kept in check by a superb crew of officials. The Fergus lads seemed to be suffering from late nights with the books and were ready for the taking, fortunate to be down only 3-2 after two periods. Poor reads and selfish play saw them squander numerous opportunities.

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I want to remind everyone that the formation of ice depends on what's happening above and below the ice surface.

Just because the ice looks safe or you saw someone walking on it yesterday, doesn't mean it's still safe to walk on today. It's important to remember that ice conditions can change dramatically, over a short period of time.

We've all seen people playing "Shinny" hockey or taking a shortcut across the ice. If you choose to go out onto the ice... *be prepared, in case you find yourself skating on thin ice.*

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