



TRI-COUNTY FINALISTS: Acton Midget Tanners include, front row - left to right: Nick Kosakowski and Simon Sharples. Middle: Kevin Deforest, Ashley Wiens, Josh Essiembre, Daniel Elgar, Matt Angell, Darcy Gordon. Back: Coach John Archibald, Trainer Yvon Essiembre, Nick Ridler (A), Brandon Ceccotti, Brad Ethier (A), Braden Artem, Mike Bentley, Greg Henry, Garrett Williams, Kyle McDonald (A), Neil Armstrong (C), Assistant Coach Dave Ethier. Missing: Dylan McPhail, Assistant Coach Tom Cooper and Trainer Rick McCarthy. Submitted photo

Midgets win Montreal silver

The Acton Tanners Galvcast Midget "BB" hockey team travelled to Montreal on March 24 to 27 to participate in the Canadian Hockey Enterprise, "Canadian Cup Tournament." The locals did well going undefeated in the round-robin portion but lost in the final game to the South Shore "AAA" squad from Bridgewater, Nova Scotia.

In their first game against Cornwall, the game ended in a 3-3 tie. Acton got on the scoreboard first on a goal by Nick Ridler set up by Darcy Gordon and Kevin Deforest. The score stayed this way till Cornwall scored to tie the game at 8:27 of the second frame. Galvcast took the lead once again on a shot by Neil Armstrong who was set up nicely by Ashley Wiens and Garrett Williams.

Acton then took a two-goal lead when Kevin Deforest put the black disc by the Cornwall net minder at 11:03 of the third period from a passing play set up by Kyle McDonald and Matt Angell. The Acton squad started to relax and the fired up Cornwall team scored two quick goals to finish the game in a tie. Deforest was chosen as Acton's player of the game.

In their second game, Acton edged Black Ice, a team from Rutland, Vermont, 1-0. Brandon Ceccotti scored Acton's only goal on a pass set up by Deforest at 2:36 of the second period.

Nick Kosakowski earned the shut out for the local squad. Ceccotti was named player of the game for Acton.

Edge Bridgewater

The third-game saw Acton defeat South Shore, an "AAA" team from Bridgewater, Nova Scotia 4-3 in a very exciting finish. From the drop of the puck, the game was a fast pace, hard-hitting affair. Both teams played well and you could not ask for a more exciting finish. The locals got on the scoreboard at 4:41 of the first period on a goal by Josh Essiembre from a nice play set up by Braden Artem. South Shore fought back and tied the game with 1:59 left in the first. In the second frame Nova Scotia put the pressure on, scoring two goals at 9:17 and again at 4:33. Not to be out done, the Acton team added a marker at 3:12 of their own with a goal by Deforest from a pass set up by McDonald to bring the game within one. With less than a minute to play, the Acton coach pulled their goalie to put out the extra attacker which paid off, as Neil Armstrong tied the game with 28 seconds left in from a pass set up by McDonald.

At this point, the Acton team received a lot of support as parents and spectators from other games taking place in the facility, came over to watch this game and started cheering for our Acton boys. Acton got a break when South Shore got called for icing with 6 seconds left on the clock. Once again the Acton coach pulled their goalie in favour of the sixth attacker, which again paid off as Acton won the draw with Armstrong getting the puck back to Matt Angell on the point who made

no mistake in firing the black puck into the top corner of the net to give Acton the win with 0:06 seconds left on the clock. What a finish by the Acton team. Armstrong was named player of the game for Acton.

Down Dallas

In their fourth game, Acton downed the Dallas Titans 4-2. Deforest got Acton on the scoreboard first on a play set up by Mike Bentley and Greg Henry at 1:21 of the first period. Dallas fought back in the second scoring at 10:44. Acton then went ahead again when McDonald put the puck into the white mesh on a pass set up by Bentley at 9:54. The score stayed this way until 7:37 of the third when Henry slid one past the Dallas goaltender on a pass from Deforest.

The Titans then scored at 6:23 to bring the score within one, but Bentley foiled Dallas's hopes when he scored in their open net to assure Acton the win on a pass from Wiens. The win also guaranteed the Tanners a berth in the finals for the gold medal. Bentley was chosen as Acton's player of the game.

Bridgewater again

In the championship game, Acton once again met the South Shore "AAA" team from Nova Scotia. Both teams came out and played a strong game. There was no scoring until 1:37 left in the first when Henry scored on a pass set up by the defence of Williams and Gordon. South Shore scored two goals in the second frame to take the lead

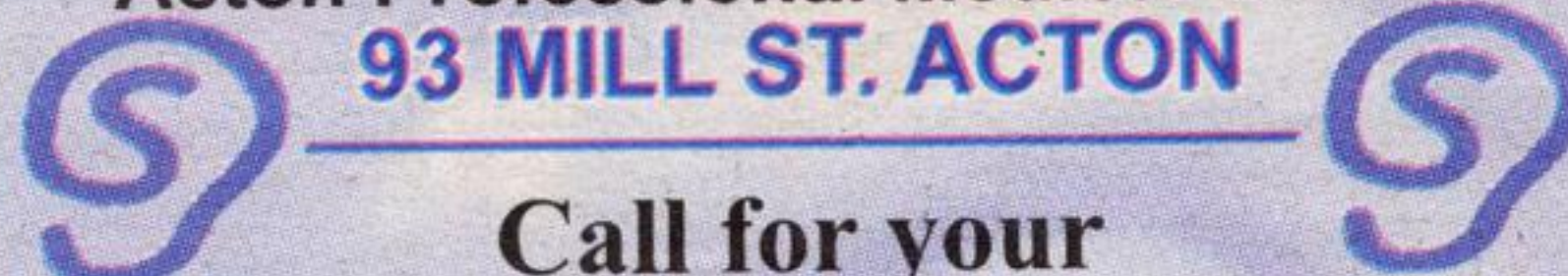
and the game stayed this way until late in the third period when the Acton defence made a poor play in their own end and South Shore jumped all over it. They then added another marker later in the period breaking Acton's back and forcing our local boys to go home with the silver medal.

Greg Henry was the player of the game for Acton and Kevin Deforest was voted as Acton's most valuable player for the tournament. Special mention needs to go to Nick Ridler who won the shoot-out contest in the Midget division going against 9 other players.

Congratulations Nick, and to the whole Acton team, your coaches and parents are very proud of you.

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