

# Sports & Leisure

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## Minor atoms collapse in third to miss sweep

It wasn't planned but the M&M Pro Sports Minor Atom Raiders will have a chance to wrap up the Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship at home.

Holding a 2-0 advantage in the best-of-five final, the Raiders surrendered a 5-2 lead in third period of Saturday's game. Richmond Hill then capped the comeback by scoring in overtime for a 6-5 victory. While Raider coach Jack Moon would have rather finished off the series, the loss does set up the potential clinching game at Alcott Arena Thursday night at 7:30 p.m.

After goals by Mark Boycott and Brad Torres, the Raiders blew open a 2-2 game in the second period with three goals in a span of 2:49. Boycott started the spree, Nick McLaughlin then finished off a nice play with Kevin Field and James Mountford made it 5-2.



Richmond Hill climbed back with a pair of power-play goals less than a minute apart early in the third to narrow the margin to one and then scored the tying goal on a deflection off a Raider player with 8:47 to play. Richmond Hill got the winner 45 seconds into overtime.

"We dominated the first two periods and then we played like we had it in the bag," Moon said of the loss. "That's a wakeup call. We were too overconfident even going into the game. Richmond Hill is not going to lay down."

Georgetown took the 2-0 series lead Friday night at home with a 4-2 victory.

The Raiders led 1-0 after two periods and extended that to 4-0 with three goals in less than three minutes in the third. Mark Boycott, his second of the game, and Matt Velten scored on a five-minute power play. Kevin Field scored 23 seconds after Velten to make it 4-0. Richmond Hill did manage to cut the lead in half by scoring twice but the Raider lead was never in jeopardy.

"We were breaking out of our end and getting a lot of two-on-one breaks," Moon said. "They have size but we have speed."

McLaughlin and Field each had three assists in the two games while Aaron Kirk and Velten had two apiece. Picking up single assists were Travis Bland, Shaun Dennie, Torres, Mountford and Boycott.

As for trying to clinch the title on Thursday, Moon said there is not much the team needs to change.

"The kids have worked hard all year. They weren't expected to be where they are," he said. "We just have to play our normal game, use our speed and stay out of the penalty box."



Acton goalie Chad Greenwood prepares to turn aside a Tillsonburg shooter in Sunday's OMHA final. Tillsonburg escaped with a 2-1 victory to complete a sweep of the series. Jason Bonus had the lone Acton goal.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

## Good effort not enough for Sabres as Tornadoes sweep OMHA final

By HERB GARBUTT  
 Staff Writer

For the second time in a week, the Acton URW Local 603 Peeewe II Sabres provided local hockey fans with a close, exciting game. Unfortunately, for the second time the visiting Tillsonburg Tornadoes escaped with a one-goal victory.

Sunday's 2-1 win completed a three-game sweep of the Ontario Minor Hockey Association final for Tillsonburg. That came on the heels of a 5-1 loss in Tillsonburg on Saturday. And while the wins proved to be elusive for the Sabres in the final, Acton coach Steve Robertson said his team's performance was outstanding.

"It would have felt a lot better to at least take one or two games," he said. "But I'm not upset. The kids worked hard all season and I'd gladly have all 16 of them back next season."

Robertson won't be so lucky as

about half of the team will move up to bantam next year.

Like they did in game one—a 2-1 overtime loss—Acton struck first. Jason Bonus slid a rebound under Tillsonburg goalie Nick Russell before the game was five minutes old. Chris Near and Adam Brouillard picked up assists on the goal. Tillsonburg tied the game later in the period on a low point shot.

Sabre goalie Chad Greenwood was put to the test in the second period and came through.

Although Acton was outshot 15-1, Greenwood allowed only one goal to keep the Sabres in the contest. He was particularly sharp on a Tillsonburg power play late in the period when he stopped six shots.

Despite not being able to generate much offence in the previous period, Acton came out charging in the third and were almost rewarded.

Bonus broke in on the right side and fired a high shot that gave

Russell trouble. The puck dropped behind Russell, hit the inside of the post and trickled through the crease before being cleared away. Many people in the rink, including Robertson, thought the shot had gone in.

Game two of the series was the only one in which Tillsonburg pulled away. Jason McGuire had the lone Sabre goal on an end-to-end rush.

"The league all year was a practice for this. We knew they were going this far," said Robertson. "They play the game so well we knew they would be one of the contenders."

Members of the Sabres' OMHA finalist team were: Darren Banks, Justin Lockerbie, Near, Shawn Prentice, Michael Grierson, Simon Drexler, Greenwood, David Preston, Brian Field, Thomas Mahon, Brouillard, Ben Williams, Peter Glatt, Bonus and McGuire. The coaching staff consisted of Robertson, Brad Thompson and Matthew Robertson.



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