

Sports & Leisure

Wednesday, March 27, 2002

M&M PRO SPORTS

Lots of new lacrosse equipment!
New Bauer, Nike, Louisville
hockey gear now in!

10 Mountainview Rd. South, Georgetown 905-877-8889



Roger Kirkness takes a drink of ginger ale from the Red Lobster Cup after scoring the winning goal in the Acton Minor Novice Tanners' 1-0 victory over Caledon. The victory gave the Tanners a 3-victory in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association final.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

Minor Novice Tanners win 1-0 thriller to capture OMHA championship title

The Acton Carquest Minor Novice Tanners touched off a day of celebration, bringing Acton its first of two Ontario Minor Hockey Association championships on Saturday.

Jesse Harris held the Caledon shooters at bay and Roger Kirkness' second-period goal was the difference as the Tanners edged Caledon 1-0. The victory gave them a three games to one series victory.

"I told the kids that in the last 25 years only seven Acton teams had won (an OMHA championship)," said Tanners' coach Bruce Chiasson. "We're number eight so that's something for them to be really proud of."

Although the Tanners' previous two victories in the series were by convincing scores of 4-0 and 6-1, they kept their fans on the end of their seats right to the end on Saturday.

After a scoreless first period, the Tanners finally opened the scoring with 6:38 to play in the second. Roger Kirkness took a pass from James Begg and slipped the puck past a Caledon defender to create a two-on-one break. Kirkness held on to the puck and beat the goalie with a shot to the glove side for his sixth goal of the series.

Later in the period, Acton looked to extend its lead when Jesse Spurrell sent Kirkness in alone but the Caledon goalie turned him away.

In the third, it was Caledon, with its season on the line, that applied the pressure. Even though it kept the puck in the Acton end for much of the period, the Tanners allowed few good scoring chances.

"They were outplaying us but they were not getting any good quality chances," Chiasson said. "I still felt confident. I thought we'd be OK."

Even when Caledon did get its chances, Harris was there to turn them away. With less than nine minutes to play, the puck went to Caledon's Nicholas Geiser, who was alone in the slot. Geiser's shot caught Harris going the wrong way as he moved across to face the shooter but he managed to reach back with his blocker to deflect the shot wide.

With three minutes left, Harris came up with a great glove save at close range to keep his team ahead.

From there the defence kept Caledon from mounting any strong attacks.

Other members of the Tanners' OMHA championship team are: Zachery Payne, Mitchell Brake, Cameron Carr, Christopher Chiasson, Danielle Cooper, Dylan Cremona, Nicholas Eagan, Cameron Hryciw, Tyler Kri, Jake Lewis, Brandan Lockyer, Basil Payne, John White, assistant coaches Mark Lockyer, Ruddy Holmes and Tom Cooper and manager Wendy Spurrell.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Tanners cap unbeaten playoff run

It was back-to-back championships for the Acton Proplastex Minor Atom Tanners in more ways than one.

As the Minor Novice Tanners skated off the ice Saturday celebrating their own Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship, the Minor Atom skaters were looking for one of their own. An hour later, with a 4-1 victory over Prince Edward County under their belts, 12 of the 15 players who won last year's Major Novice OMHA title, celebrated a second straight championship.

"To win one OMHA championship is quite an accomplishment," said Tanners trainer Rick McCarthy. "To win two years in a row, that's incredible."

Incredible also describes the Tanners' run through the playoffs. They reeled off 12 straight victories, sweeping St. Mary's, Fergus, Caledon and finally Prince Edward County.

The Tanners took control and showed they were serious about bringing Acton its second championship of the day early in the second period. Already up 1-0 on Colton Burgan's end-to-end rush in the opening period, Brandon

McCarthy scored 4:25 into the second to increase the lead to 2-0. Just over a minute later, Jessy Kuenzig fired a rolling puck from the point that caught the corner and made it 3-0.

The only threat from Prince Edward County came early in the third when a rebound was slipped under Joss Warren's arm to break his shutout bid.

McCarthy would get that one back for Acton with 1:17 left in the game, a goal that sealed the victory. Riley McGilloway and Bradley Kri each picked up their second assist of the game.

"The coaching on this team was great and the kids, they knew what that feeling was like to win and they wanted it again," McCarthy said.

Other members of the Tanners OMHA championship team are: Dirk Van Soelen, Matt MacMillan, Taylor McNabb, Scott Hofland, Tyler Hillhouse, Conor Gibbons, Dylan Creasey, Drew Backman and Tyler Bandy and the coaching staff of head coach Scott Malcolm, assistant coach Bill McGilloway, trainer Malcolm McMillan and manager Louise Kuenzig.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Acton Minor Atom Tanners goalie Joss Warren and teammate Taylor McNabb celebrate Saturday's 4-1 victory over Prince Edward County. The Tanners won 12 straight games on their way to their second consecutive Ontario Minor Hockey Association championship.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

CANADA'S *Light Style* STORE
LIVING LIGHTING

245 Guelph Street, Georgetown •905-873-2996
Locally owned & operated - Serving Halton Hills for over 13 years

©™Trademarks of Air Miles International Trading B.V. used under license by Loyalty Management Group Canada Inc. and Living Lighting

Closed
Good Friday
and
Easter Sunday!

Previously
\$799.99
NOW
\$199.99



Previously
\$469.99
NOW
\$179.99

