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Quarter-finalists at Silver Stick tourney

After qualifying for the Silver Stick finals through their Regional Silver stick championship during Boxing Week, the Acton Galvcast Peewee BB Tanners traveled to Pt. Huron Michigan, USA to participate in the 45th annual North American Silver Stick finals on Thursday, January 25. Top seeded teams from across Ontario and the USA, some as far away as Anchorage, Alaska, and San Jose, California, were there to compete for top honours.

The Peewee Tanners hit the ice Thursday evening for their first game in their round-robin pitted against the hometown Pt. Huron Flags. With the stands filled with hometown supporters and visiting Acton fans, the Tanners were ready to play hockey. However, they found the game to be different from what they had been used to in Canada. New (U.S.) offside and goal crease infringement rules had to be contended with.

The first period saw the Tanners adjusting to the new rules. However, a called-back goal late in the period reinforced them.

The second period saw the Tanners hit pay dirt when Ryan Dunlevy and Greg Wells sweetly fed the puck to an awaiting Josh Tremblay who sank it under the crossbar to give Acton its first goal of the tournament. Not to be outdone the Flags ensured the hometown crowd's cheers would not go unanswered, managing to breach Acton's cage for the lone goal of the second period. The Flags continued an all out drive but solid back checking from Gavin Ragan, Jake MacPherson and TJ Baker shut them down.

The third period saw Josh Tremblay intercept a Flags pass and feed it to Mitchell Brake who carved his way to the front of the Flags cage where he managed to pick the corner and light up the lamp for Acton's second of the game. The Flags placed the extra offensive player on the ice but were held at bay.

With the clock ticking down, Josh Tremblay seized



READY TO GO: Acton Peewee BB Tanners posed for this photo just after the opening ceremonies at the International Silver Stick Tournament in Port Huron, Michigan, last weekend. - Submitted photo

the opportunity, thwarted a Flags pass and carried the puck to open ice firing into an unguarded Pt. Huron net to secure the win.

Acton's Greg Slowka amazed Tanner supporters between the uprights with good glove and stick work.

Final score: Acton 3 - Pt. Huron 1.

Meet the Eagles

On January 26, the Tanners were pitted against the top-seeded Colorado Arvada Eagles. Thanks to the defensive team of Adam Duval, Tyler Christopher and Nick Vandereyken the black Eagle sweaters were treated to an up close look of the boards.

The scoreboard remained empty until midway through the second period when Mitchell Brake intercepted an Eagles pass and neatly placed it into the top right corner to open up the scoring. Acton's last goal in the second period came through the concerted efforts of Jake Macpherson and Michael Evans who ensured that the puck was placed onto the stick of Mitchell Brake who once more found the open hole in the Eagle wall and fired the rubber through.

Forechecking provided by Wyatt Martin, Jeff Curry and Evan Oulton ensured pressure was maintained on the Eagle defence. They coughed up the puck and gave Acton the edge.

The third period was all Tanners with Adam Duval starting the scoring drive, by

firing off a bullet through the Arvada target. Not 10 seconds later Ryan Dunlevy managed to flip the rubber into the top shelf courtesy of the passes received from Adam Duval and Greg Wells as the period wound down, the Acton scoring drive continued.

Josh Tremblay breached the Eagle cage with a sweetly placed shot on the precise passes from Ryan Dunlevy and Greg Wells. Acton's final goal came courtesy of a pass in front of the Eagle mesh by Matt Fritz to Mitchell Brake providing Michael Evans with the puck which was fired with one final blast of rubber into the Arvada mesh ending the game.

Mitchell Christopher earned the well-deserved shut-out in the Tanner net.

Final score: Acton 6 - Arvada 0.

Meet Polar Bears

An early game on January 27th saw the Tanners up against the New York's league-leading Hudson Valley Polar Bears. The previous night's opening ceremonies appeared to have taken their toll on the Tanners. They did not appear to possess the same drive they had earlier in the tournament.

The Bears opened up the scoring drive placing two notches on the scoreboard in the first before the Tanners managed to sink one into the Bear cave courtesy of Adam Duval who fired off a blistering shot assisted by Greg Wells and Josh Tremblay.

The Bears managed to breach Acton's blue three more times in the second period before Ryan Dunlevy and Greg Wells fed the puck to Adam Duval who once more fired off a shot which hit the mark.

The Tanners tried to even up the score but only managed to rile the Bears one final time with Greg Wells ruffling the mesh with passes from Josh Tremblay and Adam Duval.

Sharing time between the pipes was Greg Slowka and Mitchell Christopher who did what they could to stand their ground against the advancing Bear attack.

Final Score: Hudson Valley 7 - Acton 3.

Acton's 2-1-0 record secured them a spot in the quarter finals of the North American Silver Stick final, which saw Acton paired off against Niagara-on-the-Lake Wolves. Although Niagara was first to put the notch on the scoreboard in the first period, Acton was not far behind with Mitchell Brake feeding the rubber to Ryan Dunlevy who effectively pulled the Niagara netminder to the left side and fed the puck to Josh Tremblay who placed it sweetly into the now waiting hole.

Unfortunately, a few bad bounces of the puck in the third turned the tables on the Tanners allowing the Wolves two additional markers to secure their win. Mitchell Christopher's glove and stick work in the nets kept the Tanners in the game.

Quarter Final Score: Niagara-on-the-Lake 3 - Acton 1.

One of top teams

The Peewee BB Tanners were one of 16 Regional Championship winners from across North America, vying for the North American Silver Stick Championship. Although the championship was not in the cards for the team at this time, the Peewee BB Tanners are proud of the fact that by earning their quarter finalist status it affirmed their position in the top 25 percentile of teams across Ontario and the United States.

-Gord Fritz

Out of town fitness centres...

Continued from page 9

She said in the past year there's been huge growth in their Pilates classes - there are waiting lists for some - and core stability classes are also popular with members.

The marketing from outside companies doesn't worry Acton Curves manager Donna Watson, adding Curves has a successful recipe for those in a rush.

"We specialize in a 30-minute workout. You can get in, you can get out...we're all women so we don't have

any stinky men behind us," Watson said last Thursday.

Curves specializes in strength training with hydraulics for a cardio workout and firming and toning, Watson said, adding they have 300 members who pay a service fee and \$47 monthly for unlimited use of the machines, set up in a circuit.

At each workout, members spend 30 seconds on each machine, doing two circuits in a 30-minute workout.

Watson said they know the Acton market is attractive to out-of-town fitness centres.

"People are fickle with fitness memberships. You know, everyone has good intentions and everybody wants to come out and people will join, but it's keeping them coming back," Watson said.

She said the few members she has lost to Guelph and Milton, were likely people who were "bored and want something different."

At X-treme Fitness on Main Street North (in the former bowling alley), owner Kevin Harris said if people want to pay for gas to drive

out of Acton to pay higher fitness centre membership fees - let them.

"I'm doing very well, right now," Harris said on Friday, adding he bought the business one year ago and severed ties with the previous owner several months later.

After putting over \$100,000 in renovations and equipment, Harris said they've grown to 250 members, evenly split between men and women, aged 14 to 70, who pay \$34.99 monthly for unlimited use of the equipment.