



SPORTS

THE CANADIAN CHAMPION

FRIDAY APRIL 3, 1998



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

Despite being knocked to the ice, Victoria Mule still managed to sink this shot and help her Royal Bank minor atoms beat T.D. Bank 4-0 during Saturday's House League Day of Champions.

No cakewalk is expected

The Milton Merchants are hoping the home-ice disadvantage trend seen in the Metro finals continues tonight when they begin battling the league champion Wexford Raiders.

The Raiders won Tuesday's coin toss and the right to host the first two tilts in the best-of-seven series.

Game one is set for tonight at 8:30 p.m. while game two goes Sunday at 1:30 p.m. The teams will meet at Memorial Arena for games three and four Monday and Wednesday.

Both home games start at 7:30 p.m.

Wexford went the distance with Caledon but still had enough left to dismantle them 9-0 in game seven

Tuesday.

This marked the second time in five days they managed nine goals in a game — which suggests a bigger threat to the Merchants than was forthcoming by Trenton or Hamilton last month.

"They have much more scoring depth and their defencemen are very physical," said Milton president Gregg Carrigan. "It's probably going to be a long series."

The winner of the series will play the Northern Ontario representative — most likely Rayside Balfour — for the Dudley Hewitt Cup and a trip to Nanaimo, B.C. in early May for the national Jr. A championship.

What? Is it over already?

By STEVE LeBLANC

Special to The Champion

Outside was hot but inside was simply sizzling Saturday at Memorial Arena, where the Milton Minor Hockey Association held its annual House League Day of Champions.

From dawn till dusk, top teams battled it out in every division — for their family, friends, fans, coaches, teammates and especially for themselves.

The following is a rundown of the day's championship games, as well as award winners from the entire season.

Results are in order of games played.

Pre-Novice Consolation Finals Little Firemen 3, Re/Max Realty 2

The torch has been passed and for a second straight season the Little Fireman have come away with the consolation title.

This time around it was Marshall Vince who provided the heroics. The pint-sized sniper notched his team's equalizer and go-ahead a mere six seconds apart in the final five minutes of play.

Assisting on his initial tally was Rienan Farrell, who potted the Little Fireman's first goal.

Scoring for Re/Max were Kris Delnin and Jordan Haggart while Jonathan Craig tended the cage.

Between the pipes for the victors was Adrian Eppinger.

Championship Bruce Hood Travel 1, As We Grow 0

Bruce Hood's Lucas Reid and Ben Stonehill of As We Grow turned in a two-tiered goaltender's clinic that Dominik Hasek himself might have taken notes at.

In the end it took Matthew Elliot's overtime tally — 5:25 into the extra session — to decide a winner.

Setting him up were Domenic Lizzy and Joel Bouwman.

Justin Rachel, Matt Fratt and Bradley Sharpe all gave strong performances for As We Grow.

Pre-Novice Award Winners

Bruce Hood Travel: Lucas Reid (Most Improved), Krista Dermott (Most Sportsmanlike).

Remax Realty: Michael Dwyer (Most Improved), Corey Hughes (Most

Sportsmanlike).

As We Grow: Bradley Hoy (Most Improved), Sean Armitage (Most Sportsmanlike).

Little Firemen: Adrian Eppinger (Most Improved), Eric Gottwald (Most Sportsmanlike).

Tyke Selects: Scott Stover (Most Improved), Brayden Abraham (Most Sportsmanlike).

Beginners

No scores or individual stats were kept here, but this initial hockey program provided some of the most entertaining moments of the day, as four teams — all sponsored by Tim Hortons (affectionately called Timbits) — competed in two half-ice games.

Playing with desire and enthusiasm rather than skill or strategy, these rink rats got their first taste of what will likely be years of enjoyable minor hockey for most of them.

Little things like individual stats, awards and even who was winning didn't seem to interest these youngsters — who played simply for the love of the game.

Even taking the occasional tumble didn't seem to bother them — after all, they didn't really have too far to fall.

Beginners Award Winners

Red Timbits: Cody Saftic (Most Improved), Travis Debartmaker (Most Sportsmanlike).

White Timbits: Andrew Boivin (Most Improved), Lauren Kelly (Most Sportsmanlike).

Green Timbits: Aaron Farrell (Most Improved), Sean Ferguson (Most Sportsmanlike).

Black Timbits: Joel Herder (Most Improved), James Thornton (Most Sportsmanlike).


Minor Novice K.F.C. 3, Rebekah Lodge 2

KFC's offence took a two-period hiatus before Steven Hubbs finally secured the victory 2:17 into overtime.

Assisting on the game-winner was Alex Pearson. Rebekah Lodge had fought back and forced an extra frame — thanks to goals by Stephen Jackson and Josh Sundwall — before they were put away.

Tyler Sim was steady in net for the

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