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Milton's Choice Awards Nominee Section is Coming



The Canadian Champion

Milton's Choice - Since 1860

Cupples back on top of podium with golden showing at COSIC

Milton Skating Club once again has a golden girl in its midst.

Ashley Cupples climbed her way back to the top of the podium — after just a one-year hiatus — earlier this month at the Central Ontario Sectional Interclub Championship (COSIC) in North York.

This time around, the 10-year-old turned back all nine challengers in the Pre-Juvenile 'A' Ladies Freeskate.

Ashley — who two years ago became the local club's first ever gold medalist at this level — delivered a near-flawless performance to finish first.

Her return to prominence extended the local club's COSIC gold-medal streak to three years.

In 2001, Tiffany Richmond won the Senior Silver Ladies Freeskate.

Nailing a double axle early in her two-

and-a-half minute routine, Ashley said, set the stage for overall prosperity. Other elements that she negotiated in impressive fashion included a double lutz, double loop combination.

"I'm happy (with my effort). I think I skated really good," said the young skater, who later this spring will attend a Skate Canada seminar in Montreal.

Ashley's COSIC campaign also featured a silver-medal performance in Senior Bronze Ladies Dance — which represented her strongest showing, by far, in this discipline.

"I'd never even qualified for this before (at COSIC)," she said.

Added coach Nancy McDonnell-Lemaire, "Ashley's doing extremely well."

In addition to taking two medals, the local club enjoyed its largest contingent

ever at this year's COSIC — with eight competitors qualifying for North York.

Skating to fourth-place honours in the Pre-Preliminary Ladies Freeskate and Gold Ladies Freeskate respectively were Danielle Clarke and Tiffany Richmond.

Hugh Ritchie took fifth in Pre-Preliminary Men's Dance while matching that in the Junior Silver Ladies Freeskate was Angela Schrempf.

Laura Stratton also cracked the top-eight — placing seventh in Senior Bronze Ladies Dance. Her efforts in the Junior Bronze Ladies Freeskate were good enough for 12th.

Kaitlyn Tsuruda finished 10th among Junior Bronze Ladies Dance competitors and placing 11th in the Senior Silver Ladies Freeskate was Suzanne Koso.

Ladies hockey team tops in division

The Milton women's hockey team sure knows how to make a good first impression.

Joining Brampton's house-league loop this season, the local ladies made an immediate impact by capturing the 'AA' division title last Thursday.

Milton capped their title drive by knocking off the defending champion Crushed Ice 5-3 in a winner-takes-all shootout that followed stalemate regulation play and a five minutes of sudden death.

Melanie Beaumont and Rebecca Walters

finally sealed the deal with shootout deserts, while local netminder Debbie Burke — who stepped up her game to balance out a shortstaffed squad — turned back both opposing snipers for the victory.

"Brampton had won two or three years before and the convenors were shocked that we won," said forward Kim Mitchell.

Milton erased two separate deficits to force overtime. Mitchell provided the first tying tally on an solo effort breakaway and then helped even things up again by assisting on an odd-man rush with Beaumont

— who faked a pass before putting it in the top right corner.

Also setting up the third-period marker was Angela Riebot, who scored goal number one with help from Mitchell and Walters.

Milton had just two lines for the championship game, making the win all the more impressive. Also part of the title victory last week were Jen Brooks, Karen Brown, Tonya Crippen, Paula Haringa and Anita Mastracci. This year's squad was sponsored once again by Robert Lee Insurance.

'AA' minor novices earn berth to Tri County finals

Milton's AA minor novices stamped their ticket to Tri County championship play in commanding fashion last Thursday.

The Optimist Club Winterhawks struck early and often to trounce the Orangeville Flyers 8-2 in front of a spirit crowd at Memorial Arena.

Daniel Plater was steady between the pipes while the hometown team's embarrassment of riches was highlighted with three-point efforts by Matthew Dupont and Sean McGovern — each of whom had two goals and an assist.

Nicholas Cragg, Brayden Curren and James Hart chipped in a goal and an assist apiece while Oran Ferguson also lit the lamp. Milton broke a 2-2 tie with four second-period goals.

Two nights earlier at Memorial Arena, Milton battled the Caledon Hawks to a 2-2 stalemate — thanks to deposits by Ferguson and Luke Kimmerer.

Assists went to Cragg, Dupont and Nicholas Creamer. Dupont was solid in this one as well.

The Winterhawks began the Tri County finals in Orangeville Wednesday night. Results were not available at press time yesterday. The best-of-five showdown continued tomorrow at 3 p.m. at Memorial Arena.

Atoms reach finals

Milton's AA major atoms took three of four possible points late last week to finish first in Tri County round-robin play and advance to the best-of-five finals.

They capped the preliminary round by tying Ancaster 1-1 Sunday afternoon at Memorial Arena.

Wade McGinnis provided the equalizer six minutes into the third period — off a

Rep Hockey

nifty feed from reliable forward Scott Stover — to thwart the visitors' hopes of playing the spoiler.

Taylor Prestidge and his Ancaster counterpart were perfect until the final 10 minutes of play and delivered an impressive duel for those in attendance.

Three nights earlier in Guelph, the Wallace Pontiac Buick Winterhawks prevailed 4-1 — due in large part to three-point efforts by Stover and Brayden Abraham.

Jeremy Price also stood out with a couple of assists.

Milton has home-ice advantage against Caledon in the Tri County finals, which begin tonight at 7:15 p.m. at Memorial Arena.

Hurricanes in tough

Halton's AAA major bantams ran into a brick wall of opposition at last weekend's OMHA Tournament in Oakville.

As a result, the Hurricanes won just one of four round-robin games and failed to make the semifinals.

Campbellville's Robbie Sgarbossa dented the twine in their lone victory — a 3-2 decision over York-Simcoe.

Their other three tilts all resulted in four-goal losses — to Oakville (4-), Quinte (6-2) and Niagara Falls (6-2). Oakville went on to nip Quinte 2-1 in the championship finals.

Other local players on this year's squad included Brett Croft, Matt Lenardon and Tim Warmels.

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