

'AA' midgets' title bid nixed

Milton's AA midgets couldn't capitalize on a second chance, so they had to settle for second best at the recent Silver Stick Qualifying Tournament in Brampton.

Three straight victories earned the Toyota Winterhawks passage to the championship finals — but once there, they sputtered offensively in a much-anticipated rematch with the Mississauga Braves Monday evening.

While Kyle Goertz held the opposition in check most of the way, his netminding prowess just wasn't enough — as the local midgets coughed up a first-period

lead and were eventually nipped 2-1 in the double overtime, at three-on-three play.

A lack of production also proved costly in the initial encounter with Mississauga, which ended in a 4-0 whitewash.

Matt Reed notched the lone tally in the gold-medal defeat — with help from Mark Galick — which dashed Milton's hopes for a trip to the international showcase in Sarnia.

The 'Hawks were quite convincing in reaching the championship tilt, particularly in the semifinals when they toppled the

Scarborough Stallions 6-2.

Six different players lit the lamp in the decisive victory — with Drew Evans scoring once and added a pair of helpers to lead the way. Matt Price also stood out by assisting on the first three deposits.

Reed, Galick, Chris Coates, Adam Rutz and David Tielemans dented the twine as well.

Before that the local lads earned identical 3-1 decisions over the tournament hosts and Woolwich.

Galick tallied twice in the first of these games, while matching that the following day was Evans.

'A' peewees claim bronze medal

Milton's A major peewees celebrated the new year a little early — not with the toasting of champagne, but rather with the savouring of sweet revenge.

Three days after suffering a last-minute defeat to Stoney Creek in the opening round of the Hespeler Tournament, the Liebert Canada Winterhawks delivered an exhilarating dose of pay-back in the bronze-medal showdown Monday.

The 'Hawks faced some anxious moments in their bid to finish third, as the pesky Bruins evened the count twice and severely challenged Parker Mott through both the second period and overtime.

But Milton's crafty cager weathered a number of storms and denied all three Stoney Creek snipers in a do-or-die shoot-out — which the local lads won with deposits by returning captain Eric Gottwald and Kyle Johnson. Mott's heroics between the pipes — which included nearly three dozen saves — earned him MVP honours, while Gottwald's timely tally served as redemption after being robbed on a couple of third-period breakaways.

Scoring in regulation time were Matt Russell and Daniel Lewandowski, who were set up by Richard Tam and John Grant respectively.

Monday's 4-2 shoot-out victory punctuated a rather impressive tournament turnaround for the 'Hawks, who seemed destined for an early exit after two quick losses to Stoney Creek (4-3) and Flamborough (2-1).

But Milton staved off elimination with two gutsy outings Sunday. First the local lads thrashed Owen Sound 6-0 — thanks to a four-goals-in-seven-minutes stretch in period two — and then they put themselves in the bronze-medal clash by rallying from a 3-0 hole to tie Bradford.

Tam sank the late equalizer, while Johnson and Brad Mazzocato were the other marksmen. Holding Bradford at bay down the stretch was John Forcier.

Against Owen Sound, Gottwald and Lewandowski each tallied twice. Johnson and Mazzocato fired singles, while drawing a pair of assists was Duffer Black.

Mott faced less than a dozen shots, due in large part to the defensive efforts of game MVP Cal Wollaston.



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