'AA' midgets kickstart playoffs with overtime wins

Milton's AA midgets have wasted no time in bringing both success and suspense to their OMHA title defense bid.

The Toyota Winterhawks — looking to repeat as league champions this spring — kicked off their playoff run with back-to-back overtime wins to place first-round rival Ancaster on the proverbial chopping block.

Arnie Parcels' defending champs had some anxious moments in the best-of-five series opener Saturday night, as they coughed up a three-goal lead and went into sudden death having been shut out for more than two periods.

But Adam Rutz crushed the visitors' comeback victory hopes with an unassisted deposit two minutes into the extra session to cap a 4-3 decision.

Erick Lizon, David Tielemans and Mark Wilson scored in the opening frame.

Mark Galick set up the first two tallies, while single helpers were drawn by Barry Kosmalski and Matt Price.

It was the Winterhawks' turn to rally the following night on the road, as Galick's second-period powerplay goal wiped out an Ancaster lead — established early on while shorthanded.

This equalizer set the stage for another brush of overtime heroics — this time provided by Wilson. Galick and Drew Evans assisted on the 2-1 game-winner, while James McIntosh set up the regulation time goal.

Netminder Robbie Smith was rock-solid between the pipes, highlighting the night with two breakaway saves to help put Ancaster on the verge of elimination.

Milton had a chance to sweep the series last night at home. Results were not available at press time.

If necessary, game four will be played tomorrow evening in Ancaster.

The AA midgets were Milton's only OMHA championship team. last year.

Strong start

Milton's A midgets dominated the majority of their regular-season games, and saw no reason to break that trend for the start of the playoffs Sunday.

At home against Orangeville, the Action Utility Trailer Winterhawks — who represent the best shot for an OMHA title this spring — kicked off their best-of-seven series in commanding fashion by whitewashing the Flyers 6-0.

Aaron Clarke earned the goose egg, while six different players lit the lamp in a thoroughly decisive victory.

Harley Mouscos led with a goal and two helpers, while contributing a goal and an assist each were Derek Blanchard and Daniel Lynch.

Adam Clerici, Ian Kornack and Brett Taylor also dented the twine, while two-assist efforts were chipped in by Nic Cashmore, Phil Foley and John Murphy.

Game two will be played tomorrow in Orangeville. The series returns to Memorial Arena February 1 at 6 p.m.

Decisive win

Milton's A major peewees were sturdy at both ends of the ice in playoff-opening action, en route to toppling Flamborough 4-1 Saturday at Memorial Arena.

The Liebert Canada Winterhawks held their guests to just a dozen shots in game one and had enough scoring for the win before the game was half over.

Jonathan Riding notched the game-winner, going top shelf on a two-on-one break early in the second period. Daniel Lewandowski got things rolling by redirecting a cross-ice pass from Riley Duke, while providing insurance markers were Duffer Black and Richard

Parker Mott's shutout bid was spoiled midway through the third. Overall, he received ample support from the likes of Jonathan Cragg and Matt Jessup.

The best-of-seven series continued last night in Carlisle.

All evened up

Even a hat-trick from Sean McGovern wasn't enough for the Milton AA minor atoms to tighten their grip on Flamborough Tuesday night.

The Dunsford Landscaping Winterhawks were trimmed 5-4, thus squaring their OMHA first-round series at one win apiece.

Also scoring for Milton was Liam Robinson, who highlighted the night with a penalty shot goal.

James Hart chipped in two assists to the losing cause, which following the Winterhawks' 3-2 overtime triumph in the series opener Sunday. McGovern provided the heroics in sudden death, with a nifty set-up by Bryden Curran.

Luke Kimmerer showed strongly with assists on regulation-time goals by McGovern and Nicholas Cragg. Brandon Bodium was outstanding between the pipes.

The series continued last night in Flamborough. Game four is set for Tuesday at 6:45 p.m. at Memorial Arena.

Fierce finish

Milton's AA minor midgets came through in the clutch — tally-

Rep Hockey

ing twice during third-period play to nip Caledon 3-1 Monday night to kick off their OMHA playdowns in style.

The teams exchanged goals just seconds apart in the middle stanza before Jeff Kitchen and Robbie Hunt salted things away down the stretch. The two also assisted on goal number one, deposited by Sean Mathé. Austen Vandenboom was rock-solid between the pipes for the narrow victory.

The series continues tonight in Caledon, with game three set for Monday night at 9:15 p.m. at Memorial Arena.

Tykes quite stingy

Milton's AA tykes have been rather uncharitable over the past

week, holding two separate opponents to just a single goal.

Against Burlington Saturday afternoon, the Arthur Electric/Fifth Wheel Winterhawks battled to a 1-1 stalemate — thanks to a second-period goal by Bryce Abraham.

The highly dependable sniper — who's rarely kept off the scoresheet — struck on the powerplay to put the Arthur Electric/Fifth Wheel Winterhawks ahead. Burlington knotted things up in the third.

Then on Wednesday, Milton was equally efficient in its own end but a whole lot more productive up front on the way to blasting Brampton 6-1.

Abraham exploded for four goals, while singles were chipped in by Gareth Browne and Cody Seal.

Combining for some sharp cage work in both games were Jason DaSilva and Tristan Kivac.

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