

AE bantams tie series with Erin

Milton's A bantams kept their Tri County championship hopes alive by squeaking out a 3-2 decision in Erin Tuesday night.

Having fallen 5-3 Monday night at John Tonelli Sports Centre, the Winterhawks knew full well that a second straight loss would essentially seal their fate.

Their play reflected that urgency, with Kevin Marshall provided strong cage work and his teammates battling hard all evening. As a result, they squared the best-of-five series at one win apiece.

Dependable sniper Michael Brown capped a three-point night with the go-ahead goal early in the final frame — burying a one-timer in the high slot after taking a nifty centering feed from fellow three-point contributor Craig Howse.

Howse and Josh Love, who delivered some topnotch forechecking, staked Milton to a 2-0 lead early on. At the opposite end Brad Mewhinney frustrated hometown forwards with frequent poke-checks and one-on-one tie-ups.

At Tonelli Monday night, the Winterhawks erased a 3-0 deficit before running out of gas and losing the series opener. A couple of ill-timed penalties factored into the narrow defeat.

Brown, Ryan Bauer and Jeff Thompson did the scoring.

The series continues tomorrow at Tonelli at 2 p.m., with game four set for Sunday afternoon in Erin. If necessary, game five will be played at Tonelli Monday at 7 p.m.

Meanwhile, Milton's AA bantams were behind the eight ball heading into last night's game two of their best-of-three Tri County finals with Burlington.

The Winterhawks dropped the series opener 5-2 Monday night. Scoring were Stephen Jackson and Luc Hartwick.

If necessary, game three will be played in Burlington Tuesday.

Drury wrestlers continue to shine

Following a tough grind at GHAC and OFSAA, E.C. Drury's five graduating wrestlers capped off their high school careers in more relaxing fashion last weekend.

After a couple of scrimmages against clubs in Tarpon Springs and Lakeland, Florida, the Spartans headed north to Vanceboro, North Carolina for tournament competition.

Matt Knock and Kevin Tyrer went out in style — both going 6-0 in both Greco (upper body only) and freestyle combat. Jesse Ronan was also a dual medalist, earning freestyle gold and Greco silver.

Drew Evans and Colin Burnham rounded things out with top-four finishes.

The previous weekend in London, ECD secured a pair of medals and a handful of top-six placings at the Ontario Winter Games in Lond.

Rookie Kevin Iwasa-Madge struck silver and Blake Hillier won four of five matches to take the bronze. Also showing strongly were Rob Rubino, Mac Fillman and Justin Weber.

Drury's cadet and juvenile grapplers will compete in Hagersville tomorrow, while the season wraps up with the Canadian championships next weekend in Windsor.

Five Spartans are expected to compete at the three-day nationals, while OFSAA gold medalist Gary Ferrier may also be part of the national teams trials on the Sunday.

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Tykes square Tri County finals

By STEVE LeBLANC

The Champion

Milton's tykes rediscovered both their scoring touch and winning ways in Caledon Tuesday night.

Eager to distance themselves from the previous evening's 1-0 defeat at John Tonelli Sports Centre, the Winterhawks struck in the opening and closing moments of play to eclipse their hosts 2-1.

The narrow victory squared the best-of-five Tri County finals at one win apiece.

Rourke Ferguson provided the game-two heroics, banging in the winner with about three minutes remaining. Assisting on the go-ahead tally were Ben Preisner and Ryan McLaughlin.

Sharing in the spotlight with rock-solid goaltending was Nicholas Hoffman, while Milton's initial deposit came four minutes into the evening — off the stick of Aidan Atkinson.

Brett Everson and Andrew Dodson set him up.



At Tonelli Monday night, the Winterhawks applied ample pressure down the stretch, but just couldn't light the lamp. Everson, Preisner and Austin Dezeeuw were all robbed on close-range scoring chances in the final frame, after Milton struggled to get away shots through the first two periods.

Keeping his team with striking distance, Connor Hallyburton made about a dozen saves — the most impressive of which came on a two-on-none breakaway just moments into the game.

Caledon's lone goal came late in the first, on a bottom-shelf wrister.

The Winterhawks — who went 7-0-3 in Tri County round robin play after a rather rocky regular season — host game three tonight at Milton Sports Centre, starting at 6:30 p.m.

The teams return to Caledon Sunday afternoon for game four.

If necessary, a fifth and deciding tilt is set for Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. at Milton Sports Centre.

Hurricane atoms reach OMHA finals

Halton's AAA atoms are Ontario-championship bound after capturing OMHA gold earlier this month in Aurora.

Sporting five Milton players this season — including Nicholas Creamer, Sean McGovern, Daniel Plater, Oran Ferguson and Spencer Abraham — the Hurricanes clinched the title with a 4-1 decision over

the Quinte Red Devils.

Halton and Quinte had battled to a 5-5 stalemate in opening-round play, but there was no debating who the better team was in the championship rematch.

Halton dominated from start to finish and got an exceptional performance from a number of players, including MVP

Ferguson. En route to the finals, the Hurricanes toppled the York-Simcoe Express (5-2) and the Guelph Storm (5-1). Their lone defeat on the weekend came in a 3-2 setback to the Whitby Wildcats.

The Hurricanes will be part of the five-team all-Ontario finals April 9 to 11 in London.

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