

Minor atoms deliver fierce finish to book passage to quarterfinals

Milton's AA minor atoms are quarterfinal-bound.

Putting the brakes on a potential series turnaround in Flamborough Saturday evening, the Winterhawks exploded down the stretch with a handful of third-period goals to bury the Sabres 8-4 — clinching the second round in five games.

"It was a great team effort. The boys really worked well together," said head coach Jeff Rudd, whose team is now Milton's one remaining hope for OMHA gold.

Hopes of advancing looked somewhat grim for a while last week, as the local lads dropped game four 5-2 Thursday evening at Milton Sports Centre and then fell behind 2-0 through the early going Saturday.

But a fortified attack and solid cage work by replacement tender Mack Mindenhall combined to turn the tide.

J.R. Sanderson and Taylor McVey led the uprising with two goals apiece, while Gareth Browne sealed the deal with a last-minute empty netter, shortly after Flamborough made it 7-4.

Also scoring were Corey MacDonald, Jonathan Piché and Adam Poirier, whose unassisted tally midway through the second snapped a mini scoring slump for the Winterhawks.

Josh Bensusan stood out with three assists — all posted in the final frame — while captain Tyler Ganly delivered some stellar defense and gutted it out after taking a rather nasty stick to the neck in the second period.

Matt Bergman, Jack Goncz and Robert Manning all got on the scoresheet as well in one of the team's most well-rounded offensive efforts of the post season.

Browne and Poirier did the scoring in

Rep Hockey

game four, on a nifty fake and lengthy wire respectively.

Milton will take on the winner of the Orangeville-Stoney Creek series, which continued last night — with Orangeville needing just one more point to advance.

Bants go down fighting

Milton's AE2 bantams may have gotten swept, but they didn't go down without a fight.

Raging against the dying of a light in Woolwich Thursday night, the Winterhawks took a two-goal lead into the third period before losing 5-3 — with an empty netter sealing the second-round, best-of-five OMHA series.

"Overall, the team played first-place Woolwich extremely hard," said head coach Jim Cottrell, whose team swept Hespeler in first-round play. "If the last game of the series is any indication of the calibre of play this team is willing to deliver, we'll have a very exciting Tri County run."

Liam Hope's second of the night made it 3-2 Milton midway through the third, but the hosts evened things up and went ahead with just three minutes remaining.

Also lighting the lamp was Tariq Patel, while assists went to Tyler Bortlis, Cameron Cottrell and Richard Tam.

Thursday's heartbreaker followed 3-0 and 6-1 losses to Woolwich, last year's OMHA finalists.

The Winterhawks are 1-0 in Tri County playoff action — having toppled Orangeville 5-1 January 29 — and resumed play last night at home against

Flamborough. Friday night they travel to Hespeler.

AE2 atoms spank Elora

Milton's AE2 atoms flexed their scoring muscles in Elora Thursday evening — prevailing 9-2 and keeping their unbeaten Tri County campaign intact after three games.

Ryan Tanason had a hat-trick and two assists, while matching that point total with a goal and four helpers was Andrew Smith. Zach Wadham and Dylan Lee had three and two assists respectively to complement their single tallies, while rounding out the scoring were Owen Cutrara, J.J. Stimson and Kyle Waters.

The lopsided victory follows last Tuesday's 5-1 decision over Caledon and a 3-3 stalemate with Orangeville.

The Winterhawks will look to keep their hot streak going tomorrow evening at Memorial Arena, when they face Woolwich at 7 p.m.

AE peewees unbeaten

Milton's additional entry peewees stayed undefeated in Tri County playoff action by gutting out a 2-2 tie in Dundas Wednesday night.

Stevie Bennett and Sachin Ghai did the scoring, while Dustin Christo picked up an assist in the hard-fought draw, the latest in a series of low-scoring showdowns for the Winterhawks — who nipped Ancaster 3-2 to start the league playdowns and trimmed Orangeville 2-1 four nights later.

Brendan Farrell notched both goals in the second win, while Ghai, Taylor Burgess and Jordan Dias scored in game one, with Brandon Haggart drawing two assists.

The 2-0-1 AE peewees are back in action tomorrow at 7:45 at Milton Sports Centre versus Erin.

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Intro to snow tubing was one wild ride

"If 60-year-old grannies can do it, you can do it too."

A smiling 60-year-old Phil Boks of Georgetown stops short of calling me a little sissy baby as I stand tentatively at the top of the snow tubing runs at Glen Eden waiting my turn.

Mind you, she looks in good shape and considerably younger than her age, and just two years ago had tried sky diving, so I wasn't too quick to take her word for it.

Earlier, Miltonian Matt Scarpino, who's co-ordinating things from the bottom of the hill, tells me that nobody has ever fallen out of a tube, but also says the tubes have been clocked by a radar gun at 68 kilometres an hour.

No skill required, I'm assured by Matt. "It's fast and safe fun."

Matt adds that snow tubing is for, "all shapes, sizes and ages," as if I in particular would be interested in that information. He's quite correct.

This is the second season that Glen Eden has had the tubing runs open and their popularity's growing. There are five chutes side-by-side that curl up at the end, with rubber mats also in place to help slow you down. There are walls alongside the run so that you don't somehow go into the next lane.



Out in left field

with MURRAY TOWNSEND

The snow tubing is open Wednesday through Sunday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Most people opt for the six-ride package for \$16.00, but a single run costs \$3.50. Unused rides can be used any time during the season, with group packages available for unlimited rides.

Waiting times vary, of course, with the busiest times on the weekends, and when there's mild weather. I'm there on a professional development day for schools, and the weather's absolutely perfect, so it's more crowded than normal.

Matt gives me some final instructions at the bottom of the hill, which basically were to just sit in the tube. That I can do.

Then he pulls the tube over to the lift and I sit down in it facing the bottom of the hill. It's deep so there's lots of room. He attaches the cord to the lift and up I go.

This part is fun. I'm pulled leisurely up the hill while the view gets better and better. This in itself would be worth the price of admission. It's the right speed, it's relaxing, and there's zero element of danger.

Not that I'm a stranger to danger. I live life in the fast lane. Maybe the medium lane. Okay it's the slow lane, but I can see the fast lane from where I am.

And I see the fast lane when I get to the top of the hill. Five of them. There's a little tube-bumping in the line-up, but that was mostly from kids not paying attention to what they were doing. At least they weren't old enough to drive.

Phil, who's there with her daughter and her daughter's daughter, gave me some last minute instructions as the line moved up, something about lifting my butt up when I got to the mats.

Phil and her family cease to be my friends when it was my turn and they suggest to the attendant to give me a push because I want to go very fast. I do not. I want to go up the hill again, not down it.

I brace myself, make some last minute mental notes about looking for Phil in the parking lot, and away I go.

I've just one thing to say about the ride down the hill: It was a freakin' riot!

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