

Minor atom 'Hawks grounded in semifinals

Milton gets swept by powerhouse Raiders

Getting swept in playoff action is always a bitter pill to swallow.

But it tends to go down a little easier against a heavily-favoured opponent, especially one that's lost just once all season.

Such was the case for Milton's AA minor atoms, who were ousted from the OMHA semifinals in a minimum three games last week by the virtually unbeatable and championship-bound Georgetown Raiders.

Despite the fact that his team scored just once in the series, head coach Jeff Rudd was thoroughly pleased with the effort. After all, his charges weren't even supposed to have reached the final four to begin with — and managed to keep things closer than many of Georgetown's rivals had this year.

"We made it farther in the OMHA play-downs than anyone expected, so I'm very proud of these boys," he noted. "I'm very pleased with how far this team has come this season."

The end came Saturday afternoon at Georgetown's Gordon Alcott Arena, where despite some solid cage work by J.J.



Schaap the Winterhawks were dropped 6-0. Drew McMillen and Gareth Browne turned in gutsy performances — logging extra time to fill the absense of fellow centre Josh Bensusan — but just couldn't light the lamp and were exhausted by the third.

Georgetown put the series away with three second-period deposits and added a couple more in the final frame.

Two nights earlier in front of a spirited crowd at Milton Sports Centre, the local lads kept pace for two periods before surrendering three goals down the stretch and losing 5-0.

Defencemen Zach Collier, Tyler Ganley, Jack Goncz, Robert Manning, Jonathan Piché and Evan Rudd all delivered credible efforts against the Raiders' high-octane forwards and helped keep the final verdict somewhat respectable.

The AA minor atoms made it to the semifinals by winning three straight five-game series, the last of which was clinched with a 6-5 squeaker over Orangeville February 27.

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One bronze medal and a whole slew of other solid efforts.

That's what the Milton Marlins Swim Club delivered late last month at the junior provincial championships in Ottawa.

In what was arguably the hardest age group, 13-year-old David Dimitrov led the way with a third-place finish in the 400m freestyle. He also took fifth in the 200m freestyle, seventh in both the 800m freestyle and 400m individual medley and eighth in the 100m freestyle.

Division teammate Alex Davis placed eighth in the 50m freestyle.

The two hooked up with Paul Zielinski and John Steadman in relay competition, with the foursome combining for fourth-place honours in the 4x50m freestyle, 4x100m freestyle and 4x50m medley, as

well as a fifth in the 4x100m medley.

Ioana-Maria Negru — who at nine years old was one of the youngest swimmers at the meet — finished fifth in the 400m freestyle and seventh in the 200m freestyle. She's currently ranked first in Canada for nine year olds in both events.



Also cracking the top 10 were 11-year-old Colm Whitford and 12-year-old Brent Burke. Whitford swam the 200m backstroke to fifth-place honours and rounded out his campaign with a seventh in the 100m backstroke and eighth in the 400m freestyle, while Burke enjoyed identical sixth-place showings in the 100 and 200m breaststroke.

Rounding out the Marlins' contingent were Larissa Ruiz, Rachel Robinson, Catherine Boyd and James Bramley.

AE peewees flex scoring muscles

Milton's additional entry peewees scored early and often to punctuate Tri County round-robin play in dominating fashion — thumping host Elora 8-3 Monday evening.

Zakk Collins led with a goal and

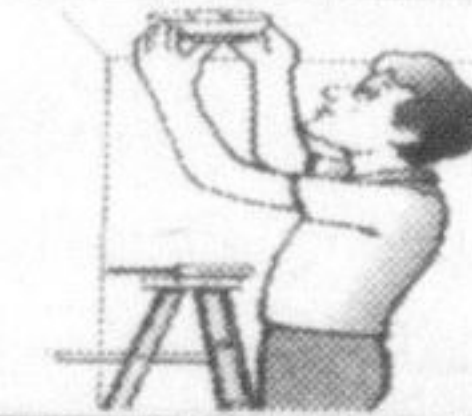
four assists, while Brendan Farrell tallied twice and Brandon Haggart also stood out with a goal and two helpers.

Rounding out the scoring were Andrew Boivin, Jake Cochrane, Sachin Ghai and Dylan Pettie.

Patrick Fitzpatrick and Brandon Grant split the netminding duties on the night.

Finishing at 4-2-1, the Winterhawks now wait to see if they'll advance to the Tri County finals later this month.

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