Winner of the Draw

Nassaqaweya Community Centre TRADE SHOW

held on Tuesday, March 22, 2005

Paul Nichol

Moffat

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Inside...

Atoms ousted in Tri County final

Facing a team with the name Shamrocks so close after St. Patrick's Day can't be good for one's own fortune.

Milton's AE2 atoms learned that the hard way last week — dropping their Tri County championship series against Hespeler with a tie and straight losses.

While officially closed out with Sunday's 2-0 defeat in Hespeler, the Winterhawks' chances of securing the title seemed to be essentially dashed three nights earlier at Milton Sports Centre.

There — in front of a sizable, spirited crowd — they built up a 3-0 cushion in the opening frame and looked poised to take game two, perhaps even in decisive fashion. But the Shamrocks had other ideas.

Battling back from what could have and should have been a devastating start, Hespeler unloaded with seven unanswered goals to stun both opponents and onlookers alike.

The Shamrocks' turnaround was so complete that they actually had more goals than the hosts managed shots over the last two periods.

Andrew Smith potted Milton's second and third goals, while Tanner Briggs sank the initial tally. Assists went to Hayden Brodigan, Owen Cutrara and Dylan Lee.

Thursday aside, the Winterhawks hung tough with their Hespeler cohorts — particularly during the series opener when they rallied for a 3-3 stalemate.

Briggs capped a three-point night by depositing the equalizer with a mere 10 seconds remaining.

He also notched goal number two, while getting things started was Ryan Tanason.

Justin Davidson stood tall between the pipes in both games one and three.

"Our boys fought hard, right to the end," said head coach Dan Melanson, who'll have another shot at championship hardware this coming weekend at the season-ending April Fools Classic. "I'm proud of each and every one of them, and they should be very proud of themselves."

The AE2 bantams now represent Milton's last hope for Tri County gold.

They dropped their best-of-three opener to Acton 3-1 Wednesday night — with Andrew Scarffe potting the lone goal — and will look to stave off elimination tonight at Memorial Arena. Game time is 7 p.m. If necessary, game three will be played tomorrow evening in Acton.

Spartans dominate on Namibia trip

As if dominating their own province wasn't enough.

E.C. Drury wrestlers — the cream of the crop in terms of both high school and club competition in Ontario — returned from their March break trip to Namibia, Africa with a hefty hardware haul.

Leading the way with three gold medals and an unblemished 10-0 record was Carl Chan, who won two junior age competitions as well as one at the senior ranks. He now has 11 medals on the year and 56 wins, the fourth highest single-season total in team history. Pushing his season victory count to 54 with a couple of golden performances was Peter Leaman, who was also perfect at 6-0 and garnered the outstanding wrestling award at the final tournament.

With one more competition remaining for both this year, Chan and Leaman have a legitimate shot at eclipsing Chris Denish's senior win record of 58, and have an outside chance to match or break Chad Merritt's single-season mark of 61 — set as a cadet in 1997.

Bryan Morgan wrapped up his best season ever with two gold medals, securing them with a 6-0 campaign that put him over the 35-win plateau.

Fresh off his OFSAA bronze-medal triumph, Alan Moffat turned in a near-perfect 10-1 showing — including five pins — to bring home gold and silver. Rounding out Drury's medal haul were Chris Flannigan, Mac Fillman, Johnny McMahon and alumni Adam Baxter, who now wrestles for Brock University.

Ten EC grapplers were accompanied by seven counterparts from St. John's Kilmarnock of Kitchener. As well as the tournaments, the Canadian contingent participated in training sessions in both Namibia and Frankfurt, Germany.

Leaman, Kevin Iwasa-Madge, Nick Ronan and Kyle Shermet close out the season this coming weekend at the national championships in St. John's, Newfoundland.

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