

Sports

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AE2 atoms golden at April Fools Classic

By **STEVE LeBLANC**
The Champion

Milton's AE2 atoms refused to end the year empty-handed.

Taking some of the sting out of their recent Tri County finals loss to Hespeler, the Winterhawks capped 2004/05 play in championship fashion at Milton Sports Centre Sunday afternoon — securing division bragging rights at the April Fools Classic.

A 4-1 decision over the Dundas Blues represented the tournament hosts' lone title victory among three local teams that reached the finals.

The AE2 atom championship combatants had battled to a 2-2 stalemate in round-robin play Friday evening, but their return engagement was hardly what one would consider evenly matched.

Milton kept the Blues on their heels for the lion's share of the game, swarming the net almost constantly through the first two periods and sealing the deal with a third-period deposit four minutes after Dundas made it 3-1.

Building on his 4-0 whitewash of Orangeville Friday morning, Justin Davidson was rock solid over the pipes.

Tallying twice with the title on the line were Andrew Smith and J.J. Stimson, who ended the tournament with four goals apiece — each scoring one in both the shutout of Orangeville and 4-3 setback to Stoney Creek.

Dylan Lee notched a couple of markers in round-robin play, while chipping in singles were Zachery Boyes, Tanner Briggs and Ryan Melanson.

Milton's other two finalists — the AE and AE2 peewees — both dropped five-goal decisions in their championship showdowns.

The AE2 peewees' 7-2 loss to the Essex Ravens was particularly tough to swallow, since they had upstaged Essex 4-1 in round two and reached the finals unbeaten.

But the Ravens gradually found their legs after a long trip to Milton and eventually took flight with four second-period goals in the championship.

Mark Cocker and Paul Martens did the scoring for the Winterhawks, who were led overall a seven-point tournament effort from Nicholas Cragg. Cocker and Ben Seguin were close behind with five points each.

Meanwhile, the AE peewees had just as rough a ride in their finals tilt with the Stoney Creek Warriors — getting blanked 5-0.

Patrick Fitzpatrick managed to keep the score within the realm of respectability — making several big stops — but just didn't get any offensive support along the way.

The Warriors, who'd eclipsed their hosts 5-4 in round-robin play, solidified the win with two third-period deposits.

Leading Milton's round-robin production with three goals and three assists was Sachin Ghai.

Perhaps the most noteworthy team of the entire 49-entry field was the additional entry atom Manitoulin Island Panthers, who didn't score or give up a single goal through three round-robin



Above, Winterhawk Sarah DiGiallonardo splits West London defencemen Patrick Fitzgerald and Dylan Carter on her way to the net, while (inset left) J. Quinn Kerr battles for the loose puck against West London's Nick Pincombe during AE atom round-robin play at Milton Sports Centre Saturday afternoon. Below, Milton's AE2 atoms celebrate their championship win over Dundas.

Action photos by GRAHAM PAINE



games and went on to stone Stoney Creek 3-0 in the finals.

In other championship play, Georgetown nipped Ajax 2-1 for the AE novice title, Flamborough blanked Pickering in the AE bantam finale, North London edged Uxbridge 2-1 for AE2 bantam bragging rights and Muskrat toppled Chedoke 5-1 for the AE midget crown.



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