

Winterhawks cap season with two April Fools championships

AE midgets, AE2 peewees capture tournament titles

By Steve LeBlanc
CANADIAN CHAMPION STAFF

The Winterhawks used equal parts drama and dominance to secure a double dose of gold this past weekend at the annual April Fools Classic.

Within the friendly confines of Milton Sports Centre, the additional entry midgets and AE2 peewees earned division bragging rights — giving the hosts more than one title at their season-ending tournament for the first time in recent memory.

The victories couldn't have come much differently.

Milton's AE2 peewees were first to ring the championship bell, and did so in especially exciting fashion — with Dylan Burkholder muscling his way into the slot and burying one past Hamilton's Rosedale Devils goalie with just 3.2 seconds remaining in the second stage of overtime.

Giving the locals a 4-3 triumph — and payback for a 4-1 loss in round-robin play Friday night — the sudden death deposit was the second of the game for Burkholder. He finishes out the weekend with three multi-goal efforts.

Kevin Pinard also tallied twice in the finals, while contributing two assists each were Joel Chudleigh and J.R. Sanderson.

The Devils forced overtime with under two-and-a-half minutes left before being vanquished in OT. Milton's regulation time goals all came inside a three-minute span in the second period.

Where the AE2 peewee champion was in doubt until the bitter end, there was no such suspense in the tournament-ending midget final — at least not after Ryan Cochrane made good on a shorthanded rebound late in the middle stanza.

With the Winterhawks up 1-0 at the time and goaltender Rhys Betts operating at peak efficiency, the insurance

Now that's fitting

The Winterhawks additional entry tournament has been renamed the Doug 'Bugsy' Thomson Memorial Tournament, with an official ceremony to mark the change coming at Milton Sports Centre Saturday afternoon.



Well known in local sporting circles, Thomson was a longtime volunteer in a number of sports who passed away from Lou Gehrig's disease last year.

With the name change announced this past weekend, perhaps it was only fitting that Thomson's son Liam scored the very first goal of the final April Fools Classic Thursday evening — doing so just 3:41 into his AE novices' 5-0 whitewash of Flamborough. Young Thomson tallied twice in the shutout victory.

Earlier this year the team was honoured by Hockey Canada as one of 13 winners in the third annual 'Future Team Canada' program — recognizing minor hockey teams for the amount of heart they show rather than the amount of wins they secure.

No doubt striking a particularly strong chord with decision makers was how the young Winterhawks had rallied around the Thomson family in the midst of its tragedy.

tally deflated the Credit Valley Wolves and propelled the hosts to a 5-0 rout.

Cochrane would score once more down the stretch for his third two-goal game of the weekend, while Ryan Bauer had a goal and an assist and Brad Mewhinney counted two helpers.

Betts came up with some big kick saves while the verdict was still in question and weathered a mini storm in the final few minutes to preserve the shutout.

The midgets' championship whitewash followed an all-Milton semifinal

showdown with the local selects, who had one last — and impromptu — game after Almaguin pulled out, due to the suspension of its goalie.

The selects offered a credible challenge before being nipped 4-3 on a late winner by Brandon McDonald.

While not quite able to join their older counterparts in the championship winner's circle — getting blanked 2-0 by the Stoney Creek Jr. Warriors in the finals — the Winterhawks' AE atoms provided what was arguably the most exhilarating moment of the tournament.

With overtime practically solidified, Jacob Pyrah notched the only marker of the semifinals just as the final horn sounded to eclipse Ancaster. The fact that the Hamilton-area team had beat Milton by an identical score two days earlier made the buzzer beater goal — set up by Michael Bergman and Conor Fisher — all the sweeter.

While not advancing to championship play, four of Milton's other six tournament entries won at least one game each.

Umpires needed

The Ontario Sports Administration (OSA) is once again in need of new softball and baseball umpires for the 2007 season.

Those able to officiate league games and tournaments this spring and summer in such neighbouring communities as Georgetown, Brampton and Mississauga are in great demand, and will be provided with training as needed.

To register, or for more information, call OSA President Jim Cottrell at (905) 791-0280 or visit the OSA website at Ontario_umpires@sympatico.ca.

www.arenapro.com

YOUTH-BOYS/GIRLS
OUR 11TH YEAR 7 TO 17 YRS. OLD
OUR 35TH YEAR 4 & 5 & 6 YR. OLD
INSTRUCTIONAL 905-451-9275
MEN'S TEAMS/INDIVIDUAL 905-840-7370

SUMMER HOCKEY BEGINS

Early exit for OHLers

A lengthy playoff run just wasn't in the cards for Milton's OHLers.

Both Elgin Reid's Owen Sound Attack and Josh Brittain's Kingston Frontenacs were banished in first-round play, with only the Frontenacs able to avoid the sweep against sophomore sensation John Tavares and the Oshawa Generals.

That was courtesy of Thursday's 8-2 desperation rout in their must-win game four — that saw freshman winger Brittain back in the lineup for the first time since the series opener. He'd return to the sidelines the following night, when Kingston was eliminated with a 4-2 decision. Oshawa broke a 2-2 tie midway through the third and sealed the deal with an empty netter by Tavares, a former Milton IceHawk, who finished round one with three goals and nine assists.

The biggest heartbreak of the series for the Frontenacs came in game two, when they squandered a 6-2 lead with 11 minutes remaining and wound up losing 7-6 in overtime.

Meanwhile, Reid and Owen Sound were ousted in four straight by the regular season champion London Knights, who like Oshawa have an ex-IceHawk in their ranks — in the form of offensive standout Sam Gagner.

Gagner had a goal and 10 helpers in the first-round sweep, which was punctuated with Thursday's 8-5 win over the Attack. A rugged fourth-year defenceman, Reid had a goal and an assist in the season-ending loss to finish the series with four points — all coming on the powerplay.

Seasonal Allergies



If you have **Seasonal Allergies**, you may be eligible to participate in a clinical research study for a treatment with an investigational grass pollen vaccine.

You will be compensated up to \$700.00 for your time.

Please call:

Dr. A. S. Cheema @ 905-566-1200

Executive Fairways GOLF CENTRE



WILL BE OPEN FOR THE 2007 GOLF SEASON!

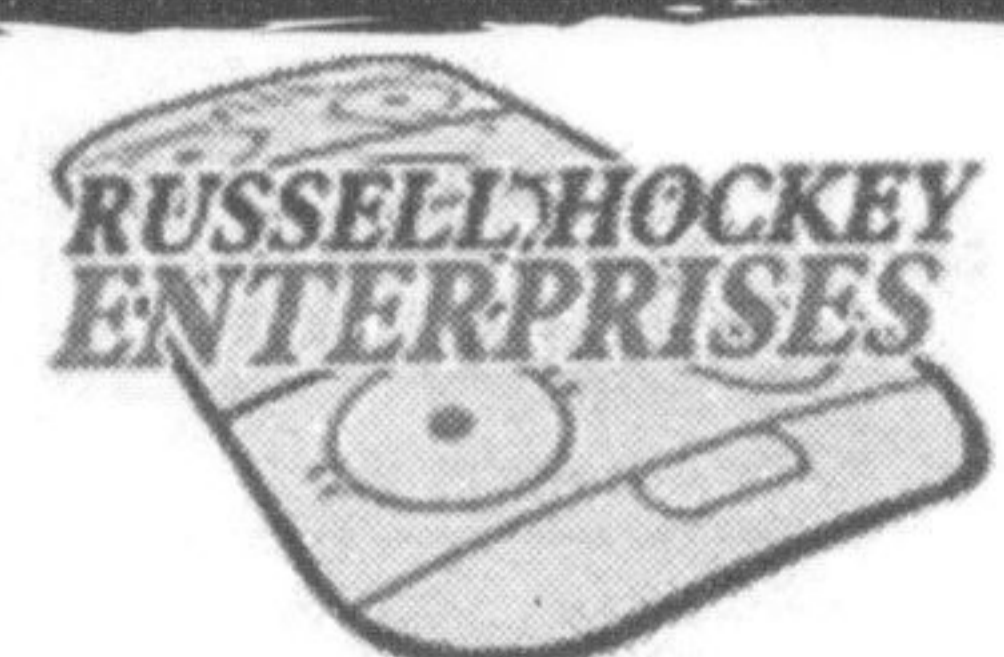
9 Hole Executive Course - Par 30
18 Hole Miniature Golf Course On Real Grass

RATES:

Monday to Friday • \$16 reg./\$14 senior
Saturday & Sunday • \$18 reg./\$16 senior

call: 905-878-5355
FOR TEE TIMES
667 Regional Road 25, Milton

Call 1-800-905-0270
www.russellhockey.ca



Year Round
Game Of The Week 30+
Recreational Hockey
League

Average & Lower Level Players
Register Now For Spring/Summer Season

GOALIES & REFEREES
Inquiries Welcome

A social, relaxed, fun
recreational atmosphere



Oshawa, Pickering, Brampton, Milton,
Mississauga, Windsor, Guelph, Hamilton,
Burlington, Oakville, Richmond Hill,
Aurora, Bradford, Orangeville
COED Hockey Schools Also Available

Call 1-800-905-0270
www.russellhockey.ca



Adult Hockey Clinics

20 Week Program for
Men & Women
of all Skill Levels

RHE has experienced instructors
to help you improve any aspect
of your game.

- Power Skating
- Shooting
- Puck Handling
- Passing
- Deking and Backward Skating

GOALIES & REFEREES
Inquiries Welcome



REGISTER NOW FOR
SPRING/SUMMER
SEASON

ADULT HOCKEY CLINICS

Aurora, Brampton, Burlington, Hamilton, Mississauga,
Oakville, Pickering, Richmond Hill, The Beaches,
Milton, Windsor, Newmarket

HALTON SPORTSMEN'S ASSOCIATION HAM SHOOT

All Shooters Welcome!

Good Friday
April 6th,
9 am to 1 pm

Clubhouse @ 5155 Steeles Ave.

905-854-2641

