

# Mustangs reach Bur-Bear finals

## MD makes big run despite depleted lineup

The Mustangs' bench may have been short, but their run at the annual Bur-Bear Tournament certainly wasn't.

Despite a depleted lineup — due to injuries and personal commitments — Milton District's hockey team made it all the way to finals of the Burlington showcase's white division, comprised of teams considered to be in a 'rebuilding phase.'

Fatigue and a formidable effort by Burlington's M.M. Robinson Rams proved to be an insurmountable combination with the title up for grabs at Appleby Ice Centre Sunday afternoon, as the Mustangs were vanquished 5-2.

"We didn't have more than seven forwards and five defencemen at any point over the week, so

it was pretty shocking that we went as far as we did," said MD coach Mike O'Brien, whose squad had exactly two lines for the championship.



Delivering an impressive two-way performance and finishing with six points overall, tournament MVP Scott Dumencu drew the Mustangs within a goal early in the third period.

However, Robinson responded with a shorthanded tally soon after to essentially quash any comeback hopes.

Said O'Brien, "That took the wind out of our sails."

Kyle Beecker erased the Rams' initial lead, while he and Karl Lizon — the younger brother of former Quebec Major-Junior enforcer Erick Lizon — provided

sturdy defence throughout the tournament. Mark Brown assisted on both goals in the finals.

Regrouping from a first-round loss to Burlington's Assumption (4-1), the Mustangs won their next two games to advance past pool play. From there they highlighted the week with a 3-2 overtime triumph in the quarterfinals over Oakville's Iroquois Ridge, with Jason Entmaa providing the heroics.

Jack Eagles tallied twice to lead a 4-1 semifinal decision over Georgetown.

In net for both the championship and a 3-0 second-round shutout against Hamilton's Hillfield College was Jase Lavigne.

The Bur-Bear finalists sat third in Halton's Tier 2 ranks at 3-7-1 heading into yesterday's clash with Assumption. They host Burlington's Aldershot Tuesday at John Tonelli Sports Centre, starting at 3:20 p.m.

# AA peewees clear initial playoff hurdle

Fueled by superb defence, Milton's AA peewees surrendered just one goal in their last two games — both ending in victory.

The most recent of these came Sunday evening in Guelph, where they rallied from an early deficit to topple the Jr. Storm 4-1 and cement their advancement to OMHA quarterfinal play.

Many had figured it would come down to last night's Milton-Oakville clash to determine who would move on, but the Winterhawks headed into the showdown unbeaten in their five preliminary contests while the Rangers — second-place finishers in the regular season — were a surprising 3-2 after an overtime loss to Guelph.

Anthony Henein was his typical rock-solid self between the pipes Sunday, and had his workload eased with some big blocked shots by Matthew Gooding. Mitchell Popp and Sam Robson were sturdy in their own end.

Up front, captain Ben Preisner erased Guelph's lead with an unassisted shorthanded tally and helped set up goals by Jacob Quinn and Andrew Dodson, who assisted on each other's goals.

Michael Bergman rounded out the scoring, while counting the other assists were Marcus Miller and Alex Webster.

Milton scored two third-period goals to seal the deal.

In their only post-season mismatch so far, the Winterhawks dominated from start to finish in thumping the St. Catharines Falcons 7-0 January 29 at Milton Sports Centre.

Connor Hallyburton calmly turned back the few quality shots he faced, with his defence — which along with Gooding, Robson and Popp includes Kevin Galley and Matthew Lenahan — thoroughly suffocating the opposition.

Not only that, Milton's blueline created countless opportunities with some exceptional transition play.

Bergman enjoyed the biggest slice of the scoring pie with three goals and an assist, with Preisner, Quinn and Miller all recording with a goal and two helpers apiece.

Undefeated in their last seven games as of last night, the peewees will take on either Chatham or Windsor in the best-of-five quarterfinals.

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