



# SPORTS

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## Eighth-place Hurricanes stun everybody, winning minor novice league title

By STEVE LeBLANC  
Special to The Champion

It was a classic 'David and Goliath' confrontation at Memorial Arena Sunday evening, and it was the hometown favorite Halton Hurricanes who took on the role of giant killers.

The local minor novice contingent capped a Cinderella playoff run with a 2-1 triumph over the first-place Oakville Rangers, to capture the South Central Triple A league championship.

The win followed a 2-2 draw in the opener of the two-game, total-goals series. Halton's game-two victory featured a pair of goals by offensive star Tyler Holmes, including the unassisted game-winner midway through the middle frame. Teammate Mark Humberstone set-up his initial tally in the first while Madison Schott backstopped the 'Canes to the title.

"Oakville scored early in the third to draw to within one, and then pulled their goalie late in the game and had several key opportunities to even things up. We finally got the puck out of our end with about 12 seconds to go. It was a barn-burner," said head coach Craig Wells.

The win came as a huge shock to most fans and parents, as the 'Canes had won only nine games all season and finished eighth in the 10-team loop. "We won more games in the playoffs this year than we did during the entire regular season," Wells explained.

He said a championship run at a tournament in Windsor just after the regular season ended provided a huge boost to the players' confidence level. From there, they took down Guelph, Stony Creek and St. Catharines before squeezing by Oakville.

"We were the underdogs in every series we played. Not too many teams that finish eighth in a 10-team division end up winning it all. This is truly unbelievable," added Wells.

While Holmes provided the bulk of the offense during the playoffs — including 11 points in the semifinal series with St. Catharines — Halton got key production

from Schott, Humberstone, captain Creighton Reid, Anthony Murphy and Blake Hamilton.

Making up the rest of the team were Kelly Quinn, Justin Noble, Ryan Williams, Paul Sharples, Jonathan Schultz, Deron Cousens, Jonathan Turner, Chris Louth and Tyler Gill, assistant coach Ron Quinn, manager Garry Schultz and trainer Terry Holmes.

## Drury contenders look sharp heading to weekend nationals

With the National Cadet-Junior Wrestling Championships less than two weeks away, E.C. Drury High School's four Regina-bound competitors enjoyed their final tune-up this last weekend.

All four captured gold medals at the West Nipissing Invitational in Sturgeon Falls, helping the school to a record-breaking seventh team title this season.

Kevin Heffron had his strongest performance since the provincials, going 3-0 at 103 lbs, to win his eighth gold of the season. Blair Beaulieu was 3-0 with two pins at 119 lbs, for his sixth gold this year. Beaulieu joins an elite group of Drury wrestlers, as he surpassed 40 wins this season.

He shares the team lead of 41 wins with Chris Denich, who breezed to his 10th medal of the season as he scored three-pin victories, while Brad Madden scored a gold, his eighth medal of the year.

John McCart, who is training for the Ontario and Eastern-Canadian Bantam Championships later this month, won two medals. McCart easily won gold in the 185 lbs. bantam division (13 and 14-year-olds) and then took silver in cadet (15 and 16-year-old), losing only to the provincial champion.

Rounding out the top finishers were Adam Scott with a bronze — his eighth this year, and Tom Gallinger, who placed fourth overall.



Photo by GRAHAM PAINE

## So near and yet so far

The Milton Winterhawk bantam goalie stretches for a puck in tri-county playoff action, but to no avail as Elora scored in the fifth and final game of their championship series. Elora won 7-1, but one player who likely didn't see this goal was the Elora forward at left, who was being cleared out of the crease area by a Milton defenseman.

## Peewees push series to the limit

They pushed it to the very limit, but the Spectrum Airways major peewee Winterhawks came up one goal shy of taking the Tri-County league championship last week against St. Catharines.

Having fought back from a one-game deficit to force a third and final go-around in their best-of-three series, Milton's Shawn McConnell blasted one past St. Catharines' goalie — which could have meant a third goal for the 'Hawks and a 3-2 championship victory.

Unfortunately, the goal came a mere second after the final third period buzzer had blown and was disallowed. Milton almost put one in during the sudden-death frame but were instead beaten minutes later when a St. Catharines' player snapped one past netminder Chris Kovachik.

Milton had held a 2-0 lead in the rubber match heading into the final frame. St. Catharines drew to within one early in the third and then notched the equalizer

with just five minutes remaining.

Counting goals in game three were Derek McWhinney and Steve Chuchmach while Dave Kornack, Matt Craig and Matt deRee picked up assists.

Fellow goalie Josh Arnold tended the twine in game two's 2-1 victory, with goals by deRee and Kornack — who scored the winner well into the third. Game one went in favor of St. Catharines, by another 2-1 count.

While shorthanded through much of the round-robin portion of the Tri-County playoffs, substitutes Mike Berube, Chris Holmes and Jeff MacLeod came on board to anchor Milton to three straight wins in their final three contests to advance to the final round.

Comprising the rest of the team were coaches Darren Rouselle and Grant Thomson, manager Ian Therriault, trainer Scott Anders and players Matt Ventura, John Melito, Bren Silk, Andrew Marshall, Mike Therriault, Kris Beal, Tyler Rennie and Sean Mahoney.

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