



IceHawks edged by Blades

Above, IceHawks goalie Ben Blacker blocks a shot during Jr. A play against Oakville Sunday afternoon at Memorial Arena. Inset, Milton's Ramon Lopez lets a point shot go. The IceHawks staged a late rally but were nipped 5-4, dropping them to 8-11 on the season. The narrow loss followed a 4-2 win over Hamilton Friday. Milton holds one of four weekday matinee games today at 1 p.m. at Memorial against Burlington. *Eric Riehl / Canadian Champion*
(Follow on Twitter @halton_photog)



Curran named D2 tournament MVP

Cappping what was by far the best weekend of his career, the speedy midfielder capitalized on his final possession — banking one in off the left post — with 14 seconds left.

One last shutdown effort — after Alberta called for an illegal stick measurement and, subsequently, regained possession — and Team Ontario had punctuated a too-close-for-comfort comeback that saw them trail 8-4 with just five minutes to go.

"I was on cloud nine," said Curran, who scored the first goal in the tier two final and finished the weekend with 11 goals and 15 assists, earning Division 2 MVP honours for the tournament and a spot on eight-player all-star squad. "I really thought we'd need overtime to win it, but Muzzy's save and pass at the end was huge."

Curran's west-coast scoring exploits were especially impressive given that he only recently returned from knee surgery that kept him sidelined for the entire box lacrosse season.

That was tough to swallow, but not nearly as hard as it might have been several years ago — before he came to embrace the field version of his sport.

"I first tried field lacrosse when I was 13 and hated it," admitted the 5-foot-9, 155-pounder, who's in the midst of a mechanic apprenticeship program at Mohawk College. "I only got

one goal that whole season. I hate not being good at anything in sports."

Coming under the tutelage of Brett Skyvington as a midget in Mississauga, Curran's appreciation for — and prosperity in — field lacrosse would eventually blossom. Of course Skyvington — at the helm of Team Ontario for Thanksgiving — can't take all the credit.

"Bryden's got that edge that all good players have. He doesn't take losing lightly and gives everything he has out there. He was a spark-plug for us in B.C. and I certainly felt good having him with the ball at the end."

An offensive standout with top-seated Centre Wellington (8-0) this season — with a dozen goals and 22 assists — Curran will look to add to his 2013 hardware haul Saturday in Brampton. Centre Wellington will take on London in the semifinals, and if successful will face either Niagara or Hamilton in the Ontario Senior Men's Field Lacrosse League championship.

From there he'll look ahead to the 2014 box season, which will either see him return to Mississauga's Jr. A club or try his hand with B.C.'s New Westminster Salmonbellies Senior A squad, which scouted him over the holiday weekend.

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