



# HOCKEY HIGHLIGHTS

## 73's lower Flags to half mast

BY KEVIN E. NEELS

Essex needed the minimum four games in eliminating the Mooretown Flags last week. A big first period in game three and an Eddie Wheeler shutout in the clincher did the trick. The team now awaits the winner of the Wallaceburg/Dresden series. Wallaceburg leads that quarterfinal set 3-2 as of this writing.

Last Tuesday Mooretown arrived in town needing a win to avoid going down 3-0 in the series, and to their credit, they gave it a good shot, especially after falling behind after an explosive Essex first period.

Seven seconds after the opening face-off the 73's were off and running. Mooretown won the opening

face-off but a miscue from one defenceman to the other resulted in an R.J. Hotts steal, and a 1-0 lead. The Essex power play went to work after that with a pair of goals by Chad Slade and Hotts to increase the margin to 3-0 after one period.

The Flags held the home team at bay in the middle frame while chipping away with a goal of their own, catching the 73's defense napping, giving up a two-one while shorthanded.

Mooretown played even with Essex during the final period pulling to within a goal but they could not get the equalizer, falling 3-2.

"We got off to a quick start as our leaders really stepped up," said goalie Eddie Wheeler. "We need one more game though, and the fourth

game is the hardest to win."

"In period two they took some liberties with Eddie, and at this point the referee took over," said Cory Hamilton. "We can't let Eddie get into it; we need him on the ice."

Wednesday in Mooretown, the Flags' season ended with a 5-0 loss. This was probably the least exciting game of the series, as an early lead for Essex dampened Mooretown's hopes, and they seemed to sit back and go through the motions the rest of the way.

Dan Croft continued his hot offense, scoring one goal and adding a pair of assists in leading the way. Croft started things off early, stripping the puck away from two defenders, walking in alone on Jeff Steadman in the Flags net, and roofing the puck. Less

than a minute later a weak shot from the blueline from Anthony Iaquinta had eyes finding the back of the net. The first ended this way.

Only one goal was scored in the middle frame with Cory Hamilton as the marksman.

The visitors rounded out the scoring with another pair of early goals in the final period for the 5-0 final.

"We managed to weather the storm as they came at us hard in this series," said Anthony Iaquinta. "Tonight's game did not have much intensity. We are looking forward to having a break before the next round, give our bumps and bruises a chance to heal, and come out strong against our next opponent."

"I was impressed with the way Mooretown played



GUIDING THE LITTLE GUYS – During their practice on Saturday, Essex Timbits hockey players received a few pointers from the Essex 73's. The Great Lakes Junior 'C' club helped the tykes develop their skating skills and puck handling. From left: Connor Cassidy, Blair Cogrove, Cody Webster and 73's player R.J. Hotts.

throughout this series," said Tyler Gallant. "I think scoring early helped us out a lot. It gave us a chance to relax more. I am also looking forward to a break before the next series, as I think it will give us a chance for some good practices, and a chance

to get everyone healthy." The dates of the next series are, of course, unknown at this time, but the probable start date will be sometime this weekend. Check local paper and radio media for further updates.

### Essex Minor Hockey Association

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**Wednesday March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2007 • 7:00 PM**  
**Essex Civic Centre Council Chambers**

These items will be on the agenda:

- Reports on 2006/2007 Season
- Election of the 2007/2008 Executive
- New Business brought before the meeting for discussion

The EMHA Executive has proposed several changes to the Constitution & By-Laws, to be voted on at the Annual General Meeting. Please review these changes by visiting the EMHA website at: [www.essexhockey.ca](http://www.essexhockey.ca)

Please submit any proposed changes to the Constitution & By-Laws in writing by February 21st, 2007.

Please mail your proposed changes to:  
**Essex Minor Hockey Association**  
**Box III, Essex ON, N8M 2Y2**



**Novice A**  
**Drs Hager/Kniaziew**

Playdowns finished off this week with two games played in Essex.

The Ravens entertained the Belle River Rink Rats on Wednesday night.

Late in the first, Belle River capitalized one minute into a powerplay to take an early lead 1-0. The Ravens replied at 8:18 of the second as Nash Prier stole the puck in the neutral zone and found Jake Watters all alone flying toward the Belle River net. After a nifty move, Jake found the top shelf to tie the game 1-1.

Midway through the second Josh Scratch made two back to back saves to pre-

serve the tie. With 2:51 remaining in the second in a scramble in front of the net, Belle River took the lead again, 2-1. Adam Amicarelli came in and picked up where Josh left off, stacking the pads to deny the Belle River offense on the first shot he faced.

Both teams picked it up a notch in the third as eight penalties were handed out between them. While killing a penalty, at 9:18 Brady Rickeard found Dylan Dent going towards the net. Dylan unloaded a shot beating the goaltender on the far side to tie the game 2-2.

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### WESTON PARK RECREATION

Recreational T-ball / Softball  
 5284 North Talbot Rd.  
 1 mile east of Ciociaro Club

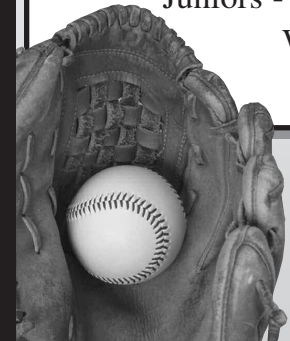
#### Registration

Saturday, March 3 & Sunday, March 4  
 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

**Fees:** Adults \$40 Kids \$25

- T-ball - ages 4-8 1999-2003
- Juniors - ages 9-13 1995-1998
- Women's 3 pitch
- Men's 2 Pitch

For more info call  
**Bob Weston**  
 at (519)728-1399  
 or (519)737-6475



**Essex Optimist Recreational Soccer League**  
**FINAL LATE REGISTRATION**  
**MARCH 3, 2007 • 9:00 - 1:00 P.M.**  
**Essex Memorial Arena Meeting Room**

**\$20.00 LATE FEE**  
 will be applied to Registration

**NO REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THIS DATE!**

**ESSEX MINOR BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**  
**2007 Registration Dates**

**Saturday FEBRUARY 24<sup>th</sup> 8am – 1pm**  
**Saturday MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup> 8am – 1pm**  
**@ the ESSEX ARENA**

House League:	Travel:
T-Ball (2002-2001)	Rookie (2000-1998)
Rookie (2000-1998)	Mosquito (1997-1996)
Mosquito (1997-1996)	Pee Wee (1995-1994)
Pee Wee (1995-1993)	Bantam (1993-1992)
Bantam (1992-1990)	Midget (1991-1989)
Jr. Girls (1998-1996)	Junior (1988-1987)
Int. Girls (1995-1993)	
Sr. Girls (1992-1989)	

**Fees for 2007:**  
 1 player \$80 • 2 players \$150 • 3 or more \$200 • T-Ball \$40

**Registration fees may be claimed as a credit for 2007 income tax purpose for children under the age of 16.**

Financial assistance is available to parents who are eligible to receive the National Child Benefit Supplement. Contact the town of Essex for details and please bring completed forms to registration if eligible.

**House League coaches and assistants wanted. Late registration will be subject to availability and an additional fee of \$20 per player will apply.**

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**DIVORCE...** Separation Agreements, Custody, Visitation, Spousal Support, Child Support, Marriage Cohabitation Agreements, Property Division including business assets & pensions.

**GARY G. OUELLETTE**  
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**FAMILY LAW**