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Red Raiders and Essex Police face off for Special Olympics



FOR A GOOD CAUSE -Players from both the Essex Red Raiders girls' and boys' hockey teams took on the Essex Police IceHogs in a charity game at Essex Memorial Arena March 30, raising over \$1,100 for the Special Olympics. The IceHogs won the fun game 10-7.

Atom House League team takes consolation championship

On Sunday, April 1 Essex Atom House League sponsored Kennedy Funeral Home travelled to Belle River to compete in the Consolation Championship of the Essex County Interlock Hockey League against Tilbury. With one championship win the day before in the Essex Minor Hockey Day of Champions could they repeat their efforts?

Battling a very tough opponent in Tilbury, Essex came out very strong controlling most of the play. Even though the strong play continued Tilbury was able to break out of their end on an odd man rush and netted their second goal at 1:28 remaining in the first period, finishing the period with a 2-0 lead. With strong play continuing into the second period, Essex thought their efforts would not be rewarded until with only 28 seconds remaining Mathew Hyland broke the Tilbury shutout with a goal assisted by Travis Ross and Evan Chevalier ending the second period trailing 2-1.

With Essex down but not out they continued their dominant play which finally paid off. With Tilbury being penalized early for interference Mathew Hyland brought Essex even with a power play goal, his second of the game at 8:12 of the third period assisted by Matt Krutsch.

Essex continued to push and took the lead when Colton Vriesacker broke the dead lock as he slid one past the Tilbury goalkeeper at 4:52 remaining in the third period with an assist goaltender Devon Renaud. The lead was short lived as Tilbury tied it up with 2:15 remaining.

In over time teams played four on four for five minutes. Essex held their breath as Matt Krutsch took a two minute penalty for high sticking at 2:15. But due to the strong effort from the penalty killers were able to hold off Tilbury to end the period still tied.

With the first overtime period solving nothing the teams then played a second period but this time three on three. As the puck dropped to start the period Essex wasted no time. Matt Krutsch won the face off, grabbed the puck and sent Colton Vriesacker in on a breakaway. At only 13 seconds into the second overperiod Colton Vriesacker fired the puck just inside the post ending the game giving Essex the championship.



Front row: Seth Walton, Travis Ross, Devon Renaud, Matt Krutsch. Second row: Evan Chevalier, Colton Vriesacker, Jesse Harris, Josh Grondin. Third row: Isaac Chisholm,

Matt Orendorf, Matthew Hyland, Brent Sharpe. Back row: Coach John Alves, Coach Scott Cressman, Head Coach Brad Beaten, Trainer Jessica Beaten.

Congratulations to all the boys on their well deserved effort.

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