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Photo: Andy Comber

ESSEX 73's HOCKEY HIGHLIGHTS

Essex eliminates Peach Kings in quadruple overtime

By KEVIN E. NEELS

For the third consecutive season the Essex 73's will be off to the show – the Ontario Junior "C" championship.

Essex eliminated the stingy Grimsby Peach Kings in a four-game sweep, but it was far from easy. All four games were determined by a single goal (game one final was 4-2, which included an empty net goal), with the fourth and final game going into a seventh period before the Essex victory. The difference in this series was the Essex defense, number one

in the province, stopping the Grimsby offense, one of the best in the province.

Essex started with a bang in game two in Essex last Tuesday, scoring two early first period goals then hanging on for a 2-1 win. R.J. Hotts and Tanner Gallant scored the 73's goals.

Period two was scoreless although Essex gave the Peach Kings some opportunities by taking too many penalties once again.

In period three the penalties caught up with Essex as Grimsby finally connected to close the gap to one.

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VICTORY! – Grimsby's goalie Ryan Penner sits dejected on the ice as the Essex 73's celebrate the winning goal scored in the fourth period of overtime at Essex Memorial Arena last Friday. Essex swept the semi-final series against the Grimsby Peach Kings and now advance to the All-Ontario Junior C finals against the Penetang Kings.

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