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Second Section

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Midgets win OMHA BB crown

By ALAN SHACKLETON
Sports Editor

Stouffville is the home of the 1986-87 Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) BB Midget champions.

The Stouffville Beekers Midget Clippers took the title with a 7-3 win in Beamsville Friday night to sweep the best of seven final four straight.

"The whole team are just super kids," an elated coach Ray Steele said after the game. "It was a total team effort by everyone, even the guys who didn't play too much were there when we needed them."

The squad is the first Stouffville Midget team to win the BB title since 1980-81. Coach Steele admitted that he didn't really expect this team to win the title when the season started.

"We didn't get off to good start this season, and at the time I didn't think we'd get too far in the playoffs," he said.

However, as the year went on the team improved, and by the time they began the playoffs against Lindsay they were quite confident, he said.

GREAT GOALTENDING

The strong play of captain Sean McQuigge, goalie Jim Todd, defenceman Jim Baggs and the line of Kirk Smythe, Kent Smythe and Paul Sinclair led the Clippers to the championship, Steele said.

Todd's brilliant goaltending during a number of short handed situations was the key to the Clippers win Friday night, he added. "Jim has been outstanding through the whole playoffs, he gave us just great goaltending when we had to have it," Steele said. "When we were down two men he kept us in it."

Captain Sean McQuigge led the Clippers Friday with two goals, while singles were added by Jason Borthwick, Derek Hamilton, Kirk Smythe, Kent Smythe and Paul Sinclair.

The game was played before a packed house (about half of them Stouffville fans) at the Beamsville Centennial Centre, and came on the heels of a 7-4 Clipper overtime win Wednesday at the Recreation Centre.

Prior to the game, Clipper manager Maurice Hamilton had said that the overtime loss might have dampened the enthusiasm of Beamsville, but they were far from dead. He was right.

The score remained close until midway through the third when the Clippers scored two goals in 18 seconds to take control.

CLOSE GAME

Entering the final frame, Stouffville held a 4-2 lead but the result was still up for grabs, and Beamsville's goal with 9:57 left on a long slap shot seemed to signal a comeback.

However, Jason Borthwick quickly ended the threat seven seconds later, restoring the Clippers two goal lead.

Sean McQuigge made it 6-3 for Stouffville 18 seconds after that, and Derek Hamilton's insurance marker with just over five minutes remaining put the game away.

Playing in front of the home town fans, the Beamsville boys came out hitting right from the opening whistle, but as Wednesday's game the first goal went to the Clippers.

Beamsville's aggressive play led to an early penalty, and Kirk Smythe on a set up from Paul Sinclair and Derek Hamilton capitalized on the man advantage less than two minutes into the game.

Just before the goal, Todd had stopped a Beamsville breakaway. The result game could have been very different if Beamsville had scored on the play.

PENALTY TROUBLE

Less than two minutes after Kirk Smythe's goal, brother Kent made it 2-0 Stouffville on a hard slap shot from just inside the point. Assists went to Sean McQuigge and Jim Baggs.

Beamsville made it 2-1 midway through the period, and then the Clippers got themselves into penalty trouble late in the first and early the second.

Todd had to weather a barrage of shots during this time, and it was a miracle that he only let one of them past him just over a minute into the second.

The Clippers went ahead to stay with 8:35 left in the second when Paul Sinclair took a perfect pass from McQuigge who had pulled the goalie out of the net.

McQuigge scored a goal of his own two minutes later when he won the face off in the Beamsville zone and backhanded the puck past the surprised goalie.



The 1987 Stouffville Midget Champions

The Stouffville Beekers Midget Clippers won the OMHA BB championship Friday night in Beamsville, sweeping the best of seven series four games straight. The guys went a little crazy in the dressing room after the game. Captain Sean McQuigge holds the trophy, flanked by assistants Jim Baggs and Paul Sinclair. The other members of the

team are: Jim Todd, Derek Hamilton, Kent Smythe, Kirk Smythe, Gary Norris, Mike O'Connor, Wade Denny, Bill Butler, Russ King, Blair Steele, Jason Borthwick, Dave Howe and Dave Ledlie. Coach is Ray Steele and manager is Maurice Hamilton.

— Alan Shackleton

As the final seconds ticked down in the Beamsville arena Friday night, the many Stouffville fans and players started to celebrate loudly.

Jim Baggs, Derek Hamilton, Kent Smythe, Kirk Smythe, Paul Sinclair, Sean McQuigge, Dave

Ledlie, Dave Howe, Jason Borthwick, Blair Steele, Russ King, Bill

Butler, Wade Denny, Mike O'Connor and Gary Norris. The coach is Ray Steele and the manager is Maurice Hamilton.

FANS HELPED

Steele said the fan support over the season has been a great help to the team. "The fans have been super, they've really helped us in some of the games," he said.

The members of the 1987 OMHA BB Champion Stouffville Beekers Midget Clippers are: Jim Todd,



Bantams lose 'heart breaker' to end final series

By ALAN SHACKLETON
Sports Editor

It was a heart breaker. Despite a valiant effort over the weekend, the Stouffville Edwards-Murphy Bantam Clippers were unable defend their Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) BB championship against Belle River.

The knock-out punch came in game four Sunday afternoon with 2:34 left in overtime as Belle River took a 5-4 lead. The Clippers pulled the goalie in all-out effort to tie, but an empty net goal with one second to go finished them off.

Belle River won the game 6-4 and took the best of five final series 3-1.

The loss was particularly hard for the Clippers to take as they had a 3-1 lead going

into the final period Sunday. If the Bantams had hung on to win, the series would have been deadlocked 2-2 and the advantage would have gone to the Clippers as game five was scheduled for Stouffville next Saturday.

To win the series would have been a great comeback for the Clippers as they lost the first two games last weekend in Belle River. However, anything was possible after the Bantams strong play in game three Saturday night which they won 5-3.

Bantam coach Kerry Keller would like the third period of Sunday's game back, and so would his players.

Belle River controlled the period and scored to tie it 3-3 on a power play with only 1:28

left in the game and force the ten minute overtime.

The Clippers were outshot 14-2 in the third, and Belle River's suddenly tenacious forechecking seemed to confuse them.

"They way to beat Belle River was to dump the puck in and forecheck them to death," Keller said. "That's what we did the first two periods, and it was what we planned to do in the third. Instead, Belle River did everything we wanted to do."

As well as the tying goal being scored in the third, the winner in overtime was also scored on a power play.

A Clipper defenceman was given a holding penalty in front of the net with 3:36 left in the overtime, and just over a minute later Belle River bounced a drive from the point off a leg for the winner.

"I don't think the ref should have been calling a holding penalty in overtime; there was a crowd in front of the net and it just wasn't that flagrant," Keller said. "The refs ended up deciding the winner with their calls and I don't think that was proper."

Belle River opened the scoring early in the overtime, but the Clippers came back to tie it on a power play goal of their own by Scott McKinley.

Other Clipper scorers Sunday were captain Dan Larmer, Kevin Francis and McKinley.

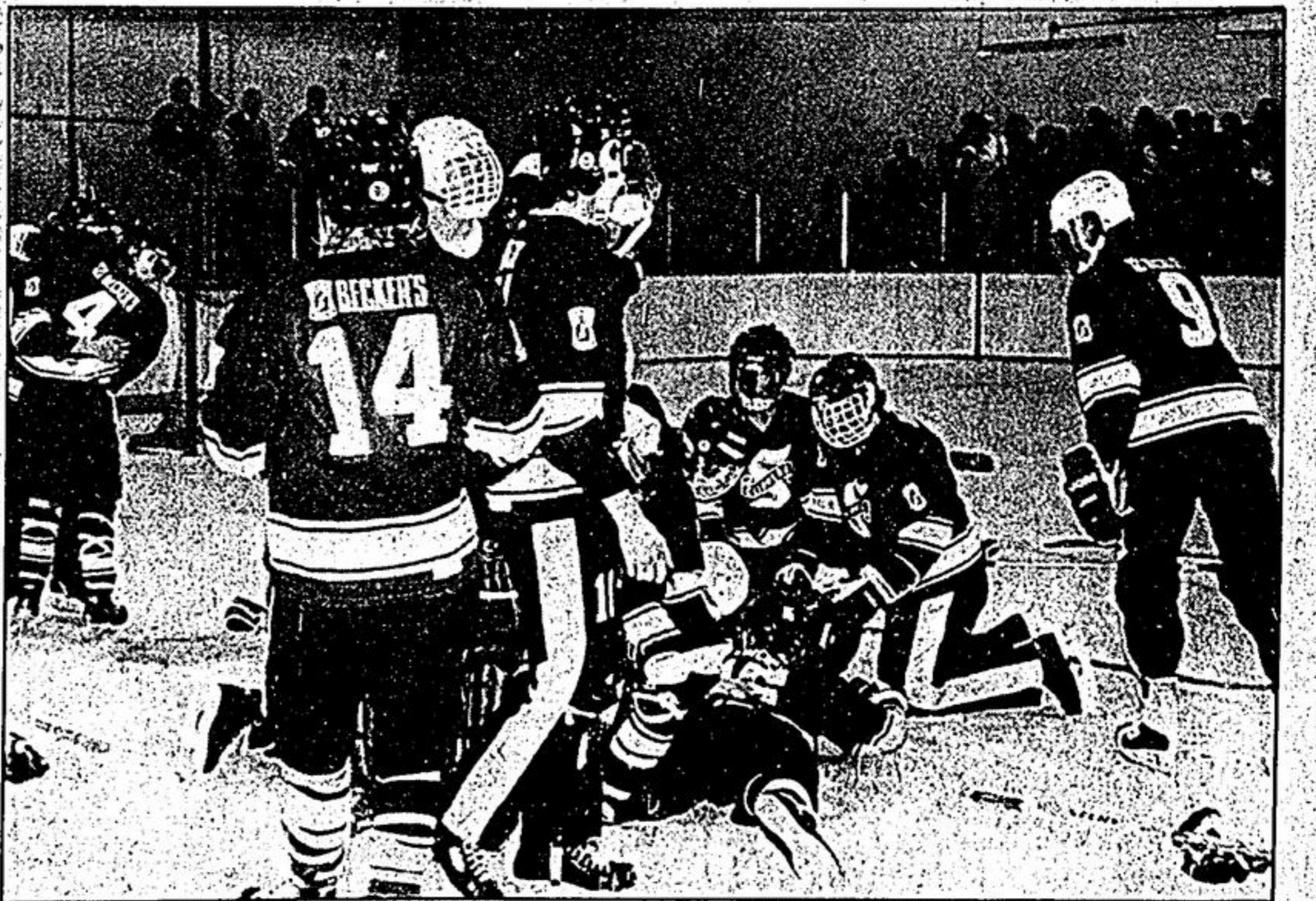
Facing elimination Saturday, the Clippers came up with one of their most physical games of the season to win comfortably 5-3.

Scott McKinley with two, Dan Larmer, Craig Stronach and Aaron McWilliams scored the goals.

Despite the bitter loss, Keller said he is "very proud" of the team. "It's been a tremendous year, but sometimes after such a loss you forget that."



The Stouffville Edwards-Murphy Bantam Clippers would rather have won the championship trophy instead of the runner-up one, but they still had the class to pose for this photo moments after their bitter defeat in Game four. They are assistant captain Aaron McWilliams (left), coach Kerry Keller, captain Dan Larmer, with trophy and Darren Baston.



Midget Celebration

As the final buzzer sounded, the Midget Clippers hit the ice to celebrate their OMHA BB championship. A large number of Stouffville fans also joined in the party at the Beamsville Centennial Centre. Top photo: Captain Sean McQuigge (center)

is presented with the championship trophy by a member of the OMHA executive. Also on hand were coach Ray Steele (center), assistant captains Jim Baggs and Paul Sinclair, and manager Maurice Hamilton.

— Alan Shackleton