

REKAI & JOHNSON

Barristers & Solicitors
49 Main Street East, 2nd Floor
Stouffville, Ontario
640-8100 or 649-3555

The Tribune

Sports & Classified

A Metroland Community Newspaper

LEASING

Today's easy way
to drive

Larry Cotter Leasing
640-4541

All makes and models

Wednesday, April 13, 1988

Second Section

CLIPPERS CAPTURE CROWN

By BLAINE KANEKO
It was the best of times, the worst of times, then the best of times.

No truer statement could sum up the last weekend of the season for the Fame International Atom 'Clippers' as they narrowly defeated an outstanding squad from Hespeler 2-1 in the deciding game of their best-of-five Ontario Minor Hockey Association 'BB' Championship.

The emotional rebounder began Friday night at the Recreation Centre. Both units had one victory tucked away and were looking to assert themselves and finish the series Saturday in Hespeler.

Despite falling behind 3-0 on Mike Macey's hat trick, the Atoms chipped away at the lead on a pair of goals by Geoff Smith and a single by Phillip Pridham.

Early in the third frame, Lindsey Haylow's powerplay marker put the hometown in the lead for the first time. But five minutes later a lofting wristshot by Mike Switzer found the mesh and the game was again tied.

With 1:59 remaining in regulation time it was Ryan Burkholder's opportunity to shine.

Coming back from a groin injury, in under two minutes the Clipper captain collected the winning goal and the insurance.

It was on to Hespeler leading the series 2-1. In typical Atom Clipper fashion the maroon and white fell behind only one minute into the game. Geoff Smith's slapshot from the point knotted the contest at ones but rugged forward Mike Macey put Hespeler up by one.

John McKinnon and Coulter Carcone gave the visiting Clippers the advantage only to have two quick goals edge Hespeler back in front by a single.

Stouffville centreman Ryan Burkholder brought the game to a draw until 1:29 in the final stanza when Mike McKenna sent the homeside Hespeler fans in a frenzy as his snapshot tied the best-of-five at a pair each.

If momentum counts for anything, it was definitely in Hespeler's favor.

In under 40 seconds Colin LeRuez hit the target to stun the hometown boys. It wasn't until early in the second an individual effort by Geoff Smith brought the teams equal.

Mid way through the third period Ryan Burkholder's center's favor and they used it to their benefit.

ing pass hit a skate and slid past goaltender Brian Warne.

From that point it was Clippers hang on. Five minutes to go, it appeared Shawn Maltby's backhandler found the range, but the referee waved it off explaining it had banged the crossbar and bounced out.

The call incensed the visitors

from Hespeler and they used the aggression to put incredible pressure on the Atom club.

Only goalie Greg Sanford's acrobatics and a stellar defensive crew kept a pressing Hespeler team off the scoresheet.

In the end, Stouffville's season came down to the last 38 seconds.

Two men in the penalty box and

Hespeler pulling their goaltender for the extra attacker the opposition tested their rivals' worth.

As the crowd of about 300 fans counted down the last seconds, Hespeler mounted their last offensive but it wasn't enough as the crowd cheered their approval in honor of their Ontario champions.

Opposition coach takes team's loss all in own stride

By BLAINE KANEKO
One goal separated sipping champagne from the bitter taste of vinegar, but Hespeler coach Brian Macey didn't find it too hard to swallow.

Pacing the hallways of the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Centre alone after the 2-1 loss, a touch of despondency in his face, Brian Macey remained gracious in defeat.

And at a time when it would be easy to cry foul over the shot that appeared to touch the twine with five minutes remaining, Mr. Macey displayed incredible reserve.

He admitted he believed his team tied the game, but didn't fault the officiating.

The Hespeler coach had led his squad of skilled shinny stars easily past Belle River in the semifinals and on to Stouffville for the all-Ontario 'BB' Championship. "I'm alright now," said the coach. "It was a tough series. Tough to lose. Two really good hockey teams played three great games."

"A break here, a break there made the difference between two equal clubs."

Stouffville coach Don Reesor agreed.

"I think emotions had a lot to do with how they did. It's too bad there had to be a loser," he said.

It came down to one game. It actually came down to 15 minutes of hockey. The team that could win 15 minutes. On another day it could have been different."

The Clipper coach went on to say he believed it was at the Peterboro Atom Tournament midway through the season when he felt the team begin to gel.

A 2-1 loss to Hespeler in that tournament put Stouffville in the consolation round, but more importantly may have turned their season around.

The loss lit a fire in them and they captured the consolation title. Their desire carried over to

the quarter finals against Cobourg.

Teetering on elimination, and down 3-1 in games of the best-of-seven quarter final, the atoms exploded with three consecutive victories to take the series 4-3.

An easy time in the semi-final against Paris put the local heroes into the championship.

"It's thank you time," offered the coach referring to the culmination of the season. "Thank you to the three guys that helped me, Mike (Jones), Bob (McKinnon), the kids and the parents for their support."



The Fame International Atom 'Clippers' turned their weekend of tough hockey into an Ontario 'BB' Championship title. The 16 members managed by Bob McKinnon, (back row, left) Mike Jones, (back row, middle) and Don Reesor, (back row, right) played three exciting games against Hespeler in three days.

Atoms' last word on superb season

The Ontario 'BB' Atom title the 16 local boys captured Sunday at the Recreation Centre was the fruit of their labor which began in on a warm fall night in September and culminated on a sunny day in spring.

The boys, coaching staff and parents travelled the road to glory together, negotiating some very hazardous detours, Cobourg in particular where they were nine ticks on the clock away from elimination.

Whether it was their first or second title the Stouffville Atom Clippers of 1987-88 will not only be remembered by the maroon and white banner that will hang from the rafters at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Centre, they will be remembered as a team that persevered through adversity and gave their fans and exciting and entertaining seven months of superb hockey.

Brent Avery — "It was rough. We played our hardest. I had no doubt we would win."

Brian Coughlan — "It was real hard. We had to come back from the loss Saturday. We played tough, especially in the last minute. I'm really happy."

Roger McMann — "I think we played very well. It was a tough match but we pulled through. I was down (after Saturday's loss) but I got mad and came back."

Coulter Carcone — "I was worried when they scored the first goal in today's game and we didn't get one for a while. But I knew we'd win. Our goalie (Greg Sanford) played really good."

Ryan Jefferson — "I think we played pretty good. I had a couple of bad games though. Hespeler was a defensive team, rough and good, maybe a bit cheap."

Greg Sanford — "I thought the whole team played well all series. It was a team effort that won the Ontario Championship."

Sian Morrison — "The whole team played excellent. I was used mainly in a checking role. I was assigned to cover No. 14 (Mike Macey). When we lost yesterday I was worried. I'm a bit surprised we came back."

Geoff Smith — "We played great. Our goalie worked really hard. We knew we had a lot of pressure on us. Hespeler's a tough team. They're a good team."

David Mountjoy — "I feel really good. It was one of our best games. I can't believe we won. I'm really excited."

John McKinnon — "Did you here the applause we got after the game? It was great. It was like everything came together as one. I think Fran Sainsbury (Mayor) should invite us to her house for supper. We're little so people don't think we're that good, but we were representing Stouffville in the Ontario finals."

Chad Dickerson — "It feels good, great. I feel proud to be Ontario champions. I wanted to win in their arena but I'll take it here."

Ryan Burkholder — "We really worked hard and did it as a team. (On scoring the winning goal) I was trying to pass it to Phil Pridham but it went off a skate and in. It was a great Atom Championship."

Jason Reesor — "I thought we played good. The key was playing defensive. But it feels great (to be Ontario Champions). The season seems so short now."

Lindsey Haylow — "I'm proud. We passed more and played more defence and good offence. It was fun with a lot of excitement."

Phillip Pridham — "I thought it was nice and a great experience. It only happens for most people once in their lives. I really enjoyed the year."

Jason Davis — "I think it was great for me because it was the first year I was playing as an all-star. All my teammates played great. The season went so well."



Bruins and Stars SAHL champions

As incredible as it may seem, Smurthwaite Heating decided underdog came up as upsetting the Century 21-Meharg squad 3-2 in the over 40 division of the Sunday Amateur Hockey Association's Championship.

It was the second time the two teams faced off against each other that day. The Bruins needed a win to put them in the finals. Wayne McMann's marker accomplished their objective winning 2-0.

Led by a pair of goals by Don Lloyd and a single by Bill Anderson, the Smurthwaite Heating unit edged the Pwalers despite the tallies by Polly Milton and Lionel Villeneuve.

In the over 30 category, Greens Restaurant gathered the hardware after a close 2-1 win over Village Lane. Scoring in the final period were Bob Miller and the Bruins' coach, John Neill. The Champion Atom rebounder may have a few more to lead by

example as he, along with Greg Gribbon lit the lamp for singles. Rick Glen was the Capitals sharpshooter. Betz Pools 2, Canadian Tire.

The Canadian Tire club played spoilers as they put the Nordiques out of the championship round. The Betz team needed a win to put them in the finals but it wasn't to be. Bob McKinnon must have been all fired up managing the Atom Clippers and fired a single. Wayne Harris did the same.

Collecting ones for the Nordiques were George Collins and John Neill. Greens Restaurant 1, 1 at quazoo Realty.

In a decisive struggle and a game Greens needed to win to reach the final, the North Stars edged the Penguins by the narrowest of margins. Bruce Wilcox of Oakville led the Stars to victory. The Penguins' goal was scored by Steve

About 300 fans showed up at the Recreation Centre, Sunday afternoon for the deciding games of the Stouffville-Hespeler best-of-five series. The tense game and close score kept most of crowd on the edge of their seats for the entire game. Not until the game ending buzzer were the fans assured of a victory. They gave the young hockey champs a resounding ovation for a series and a season well done.



They are number one. The Fame International Atom 'Clippers' are the best 'BB' Atom team in the province and they weren't too shy to admit it. Brian Coughlan, (left) John McKinnon (middle) and goalie Greg Sanford

can hardly control their exuberance as they give their teammates, their coaches, their fans and the entire season the thumbs up sign.