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In three straight games

Novice Clippers capture zone title

Hail the champs!
 The Neil Patrick Motors 'Clippers', coached by Dave Turner, assisted by Bill Wood and managed by Gary Hutchinson, blanked Trenton 3-0 Saturday to win the OMHA Zone Title in three straight games.

Centre star Ryan King sparked the Stouffville victory with two tallies, one an empty-netter with the Trenton goaltender on the bench in favor of an extra attacker.

King let the shot go with deadly accuracy from his own blueline. His first goal came at the ten minute mark of the final frame.

Robbie Spitz notched his team's first tally. It proved to be the winner.

Goaltender Jason Brown shut down the Trenton offense the rest

of the way.

Brown was especially sharp in the third period when Trenton applied determined pressure.

The Novice 'Clippers' close out the season this weekend when they take part in a tournament at Cobourg.

Team members include — Shawn Carruthers, Dan Tardella, Robbie Spitz, Jason Brown, Brad Johnson, Kevin Hackett, Andrew Hutchinson, Jeff Hassard, Ryan King, Dan Dickinson, Grahame Smith, Matt Turner and Michael Wood.

With the exception of Michael Wood and Brad Johnson, all Novice players will move up to Atom class next season.

This should give Stouffville a strong contender at this level.



Champs!

The Stouffville Neil Patrick Novice Clippers are the OMHA Zone Champions, following a three game sweep last weekend. The team includes, from left, bottom row; Shawn Carruthers, Dan Tardella, Robbie Spitz, Jason Brown, Brad Johnson, Kevin Hackett, Andrew Hutchinson. At rear, from left, are; Jeff Hassard, Ryan King, Dan Dickinson, Grahame Smith, Matt Turner, Michael Wood. Management of the team includes, from left; manager Gary Hutchinson, assistant coach Bill Wood, and Dave Turner, coach.

Grahame Smith set example for champs

By JIM THOMAS



GRAHAME SMITH team leader

For nine-year-old Grahame Smith, it's been a hockey season he'll never forget.

Grahame captained the Neil Patrick Motors Novice 'Clippers' to the Zone Championship. His team blanked Trenton 3-0 Saturday, sweeping the series in three straight games.

Grahame accepts the captain's responsibilities seriously. Questioning the referee concerning particular calls presents no problems.

He also sets an excellent example for his club.

Through the entire season, he wasn't tagged with a single penalty. He plays at right defence. His N.H.L. hero is Mario Lemieux.

Grahame began playing house league at age five. Hockey's his favorite sport. Geoff, an older brother, was also a member of a Novice championship team in his second season. He played Peeewe this year.

Although he went into Saturday's contest confident of victory, Grahame prefers playing at home. "The ice is better in Stouffville," he says.

Grahame claims his father seldom misses a game. "My mother goes to the important ones," he notes.

The Smith family reside on Cam Pella Boulevard in Stouffville. Grahame's a Grade 4 student at Summitview School.

Boyd's stomps on Hathaway's 16-4

In the hockey school division of Junior games played at the Recreation Centre last week, Boyd's tramped Hathaway's 16-4.

Richard Cho-Chong led the Boyd scorers with nine goals, while Mike Taylor notched five. Singles came from Thomas Hawkin and Jonathan Rogalski. Glenn Gottschalk scored two for Hathaway's, while Jason Didier and Eric Gregory scored one each.

Gallo defeated Newtonbrook 7-3. Daniel Rumeo led the Gallo score with five goals, while Jordan Geehan and Joe Lomsardo each had one. Jack Mierevski scored all three Newtonbrook goals.

Standard edged Lions 7-6 as Thomas Hawkin netted five goals and Lisa Johnson and Ryan York each added singles. Sean Davis led for the Lions with three goals while Jacqui VanKoughnet had two and Brent Meyer a single.

And Mario's and Becker's played to a 5-5 tie. Chris Tucker led the Mario scorers with three and Matthew Sullivan had two.

Jeremy Guest had a couple for Becker's, while Dylan Harrison, Jamie Vesterfelt and Robbie Howie notched one each.

In Novice play, McNeil walloped Giles 14-2. Evan Cain and Justin Kerswill led the McNeil squad with four goals each, while Derek Emmerson notched three. Singles came from Shane Cody and Mark Meyer. Giles scorers

were Kyle Harrison and Kevin Potts.

Canadian Tire defeated Scarborough Canvas 6-3. Tyler Markie had the hat trick for the Canadian Tire team, while Brett Boyd scored two and Travis Goldhart had a single. Rob Tilley scored all three Scarborough Canvas goals.

Lions defeated Fashion 6-2. Andrew Windsor led the Lions with a couple of markers while singles came from Robert Lewis, Colin Thompson, Bryant Holshof and Charles Topping. Fashion scorers were Tim McKinley and Shawn Barton, each with a single.

And Farmer Jack's blanked Conlin with a 4-0 score. Jamey Watson led the Farmer Jack scoring with two, while J.P. Belanger and Chris Miller had singles.

In Atom play, Betz Pools defeated Cedar 6-2. Tim Lanthien, Ryan Grey and Jeff Greer were the Betz scorers, each with two goals. Cedar goals came from Andrew Whitebread and Angelo Cairo.

And Custom Ready mix defeated Co-op 5-3. Shawn Boyd led the Custom team with two, while Jesse Genmail, Reese Sitanway and Brent Harrison notched singles. Co-op goals were scored by Ian Simms, Don Patten and Blair Meldmoyle. The game featured great goaltending by Brent Tew and Chris Lightfoot.

Novice Clipper fan

Hockey mom Trina Turner has plenty to cheer about this year

By KATE GILDERDALE

As the Neil Patrick 'Clippers' entered the final round of the novice championships last weekend in Trenton, Trina Turner had at least two good reasons for cheering them on.

Trina is the wife of Clippers' coach, Dave Turner, and the mother of centre Matthew, 10. The weekend playoffs were the culmination of a hectic but enjoyable winter of hockey involving the whole family; daughter Jenny, 11, started playing for the first time this year.

Dave has been coaching minor hockey since the family moved to Stouffville four years ago and has been a keen player all his life. When he's not busy coaching the Clippers, he plays for the Towne Restaurant Kings in the Stouffville Amateur Hockey League, rising at the crack of dawn every Sunday to join his team mates in action at the recreation centre.

Trina attends all Matthew and Jenny's games, and usually gets to Dave's playoffs. "they start at 6:30 on Sunday mornings during the regular season, so I don't get to those," she laughs. Throughout the winter, "everything revolves around hockey," but she enjoys the camaraderie that goes with the game.

"It's like a family, even when we're away at a tournament, all the parents get along so well."

Being a hockey parent doesn't just mean attending games, "the mothers get together for fund raising through dances, and things like that," she explains. "Everyone really gets involved."

Matthew has been playing

since he was four; this is his second season on the rep team and he's really enjoying himself says his mother, "he's keen and always ready to play."

The family doesn't spend their whole life at the arena, Trina stresses. "The rep team practises on Wednesdays and plays on Fridays. Dave plays Sunday mornings and Jenny plays Sunday nights, so we still have our Saturdays." That's important, since they also enjoy downhill skiing together, "hockey and skiing are all we do in the winter," smiles Trina.

She doubts if Matthew will ever abandon hockey, "I think he'll follow in his father's footsteps." He's also an enthusiastic NHL fan, "he's following the Leafs and has all their hockey cards." She used to take in NHL games herself, "but I have enough hockey to watch with all the family playing."

She doesn't dwell on the possibility of injuries, "with the safety equipment they have to wear now, I don't think you have to worry too much."

Of Matthew's future in hockey, she says, "I'm happy for him to find his own level." She'd be pleased to see him get into professional hockey if that's what he wants, but she'll be equally supportive if he ends up playing for recreation. For now, the most important thing is for him to enjoy the game and do his best for the team.

Trina was hoping the Clippers would be back on form for their championship game at Trenton, since they hadn't been playing as well as usual in their last few



TRINA TURNER hockey fan

outings. The last time they'd needed a big win, she says, it was Dave's 40th birthday. "He asked if they

could play their best for him and they did; they had a shutout."

Jenny started playing on a house league team because many of her friends who played baseball with her were also involved in hockey, explains her mother.

"She dropped figure skating and took up hockey."

She and Matthew are both on rep baseball teams, "Matthew starts on Tuesday, so we travel winter and summer," says Trina.

Despite running her life around a hectic family schedule of games and practices, both winter and summer, Trina manages to find time for her own interests which include skiing and crafts. Being a hockey mom is not a problem as far as she's concerned. "I knew what I was getting into when I married Dave," she concludes with a grin.

Winner to be decided in Beat the Champ

On Sunday, April 2, the 'Beat the Champ' bowling tournament will declare a winner.

Four weeks ago, the competition began with 66 qualifiers.

Finalists are — Tom Miller, Ken Lloyd, Eric Lehman, Jim Payne, Gary Fisher and Gord

Duck.

The tournament format is the same as in 'Beat the Champ' featured on television.

Supporters are urged to come out and cheer on their favorite.

Bowling time Sunday is 9:30 a.m.

Last run

Brent Harrison makes one of the final runs of the year at the Dagmar Ski Area last week. Skiers look their last trips down the slopes as the warm spring weather arrived, putting an end to another ski season at the popular facility.



Photo/JIM THOMAS