

Lone loss spurred tykes to championship trophy

BY MIKE HAYAKAWA
Staff Writer

It's never fun to lose a game. But in doing so, Peter Major insists you can take some positives from a low point.

As head coach of the Stouffville tyke select Clippers, Major accentuated the positives to his players after they suffered their lone setback of the season three weeks ago, a 3-2 verdict against NobleKing, in a three-team York-Simcoe minor hockey semifinal round-robin play-off format.

The players took Major's words to heart.

Advancing with NobleKing

to the first-to-six-point York Simcoe final, the Clippers atoned for that loss and gained a measure of revenge culminating Tuesday with a 5-2 victory at the Stouffville Arena to sweep the series and stake their claim to the coveted title.

"It sure was a great way to end the year," said Major, who coaches the team with Craig MacInnis, Chris Burkholder and Bob Breckles. "The first loss that we had against NobleKing in our previous playoff series was definitely a wake-up call for the kids. It served the team well and we rallied from that point on."

The Clippers jumped out to a 2-0 first-period lead on goals by Jacob

Breckles and Nicholas Marsilla.

The Clippers padded their margin in the second period on a goal by Quest Rodin before NobleKing replied with a tally to cut their deficit to 3-1 entering the final frame.

But in the third period, the Clippers got goals from Nolan MacInnis and Breckles, with his second of the game, to secure the win and title.

Colin Johnston, MacInnis, McKayla Major, Marsilla and Adam Bain collected assists.

Leading up to Tuesday's finale, which had the Clippers up two games to none after recording a 6-2 home ice win last Saturday and a 9-2 road verdict Monday, Major

was hoping his charges could end off the series on home ice.

"We just told the kids we had a lot of fan support all season and we didn't want to go back to NobleKing, so we told them to pull out all of the stops and stay focused," he said.

Major couldn't be more proud of what the team had accomplished.

"The kids are a great bunch, they're coachable and they're like sponges.

"They were all willing to learn," he said.

The team will move into the novice A ranks next season.

In doing so, he anticipates the

competition will present an even greater challenge as they will lock horns against 12 other towns as compared to this past season when they faced only five other entries.

The Clippers are in Buffalo, N.Y., this weekend to participate in a season-ending tournament.

Other team members that contributed to the club's title run included netminders Brent Menzies and Craig Oldham, Connor Hicks, Michael Freitas, Tyson Wirun, Anthony Messina, Tyler Davis, Sam Burkholder, Ryan Alden and William Keith.

Lisa Davis was the club's manager.



STAFF PHOTO/MIKE BARRETT

Stouffville's Nolan MacInnis looks to get around a NobleKing opponent Tuesday at the Stouffville Arena. The Clippers won 5-2 to take the York Simcoe championship.

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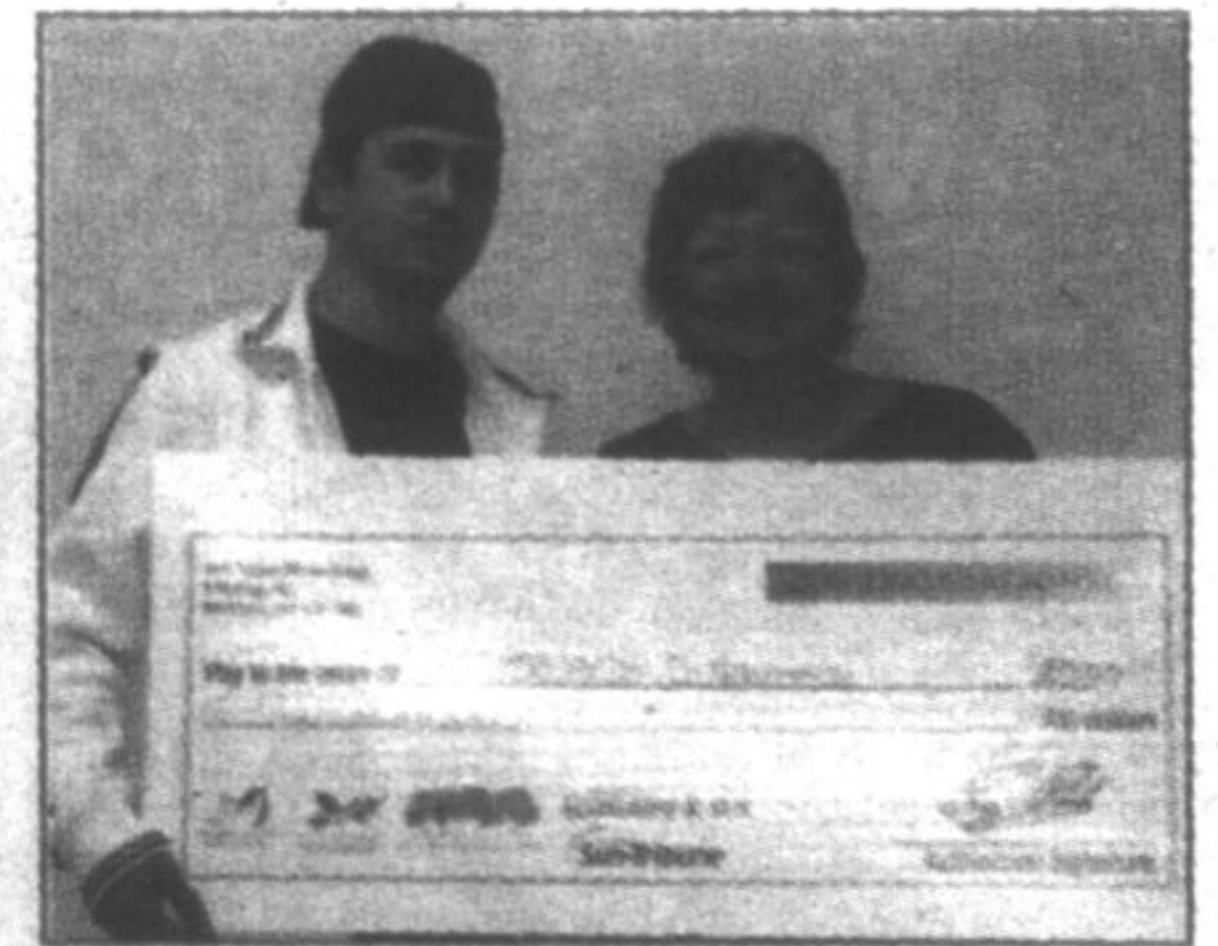
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