

Ryan Daniels, of the Stouffville Clippers, carries the puck down the ice during Game 1 of the OMHA peewee AE championship series against the Caledon Hawks at the Stouffville Arena on Saturday. Stouffville won 6-1 and took the second game 4-1.

STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

SPORTS: McNeil's three goals power Stouffville

Peewee AE's win away from OMHA championship

The Stouffville peewee AE (additional entry) Clippers seized a stranglehold of their best-of-five or first-to-six-point Ontario Minor Hockey Association finals against Caledon after winning the first two games last weekend.

Hosting the first game Saturday, the Clippers received a balanced scoring attack as six different players figured in on the scoring in a 6-1 win.

Tyler Wright, Luke Burkholder, Braydon McNeil, Taylor Peterson, Tritan Thompson and Nathan Watson each scored once.

McNeil, Wright and Watson also earned two assists each while Thompson, Jake Espey and Jackson Newlands each had one.

Playing the following day in Caledon, the Clippers were buoyed by a two-goal effort from McNeil in a 4-1 win.

Watson and Burkholder rounded out the scoring with single markers.

Wright, McNeil, Watson and Thompson each had one assist.

Tyler Ryan handled goaltending duties in both games for the Clippers, who can wrap up the series Saturday in the third game at Caledon starting at 4 p.m. Game 4 would be played Sunday at 3:10 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

Short-staffed midget A Clippers swept in Amherstburg

The Stouffville midget Clippers' hopes of capturing the OMHA title were quickly dashed when the Amherstburg Stars swept the best-of-five series.

The set concluded with a 5-4 come-from-behind win before a standing room-only crowd in Amherstburg Sunday.

Trailing 2-0 after one period, the Clippers battled back to take a 4-3 advantage entering the third period.

Ryan Brown accounted for two of the Clippers' goals while Lloyd Davis and David Beloff each had singles.

The Stars gained the equalizer midway through the third period and deposited the game winner with around five minutes remaining in regulation time.

In Saturday's second game, the Stars took a stranglehold in the series after skating off with a 4-1 win in the Windsor-area community.

Davis, Stouffville's captain, scored the game's first goal for the Clippers before the Stars came back with a power-play marker to tie the game entering the second period. From there, the Stars added a pair, including an extra-strength tally, in the middle stanza to take a 3-1 lead.

While disappointed to bow out in three straight games, Clippers assistant coach Andy Cartwright felt one of the biggest factors in the series was Amherstburg's ability to capitalize on special teams.

"Their power-play hurt us," he said. And the Clippers did not get the timely saves they got during earlier playoff rounds, Cartwright said.

"Those things all added up," he said. The Clippers were also short six regulars who were in England and Wales with the Stouffville District Secondary School rugby team on a March break tour.

If the Clippers could have won one of the two games last weekend to force the series to return to Stouffville later this month, they would have had the absentees back in the lineup.

In capturing their first OMHA title in 23 years, the Stars advanced to the Ontario Hockey Federation championships next month in Timmins.

For more on the championships, go to omha.net

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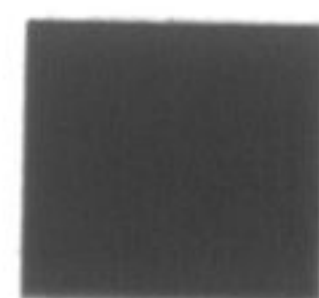
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