Any thoughts the Stouffville midget Clippers might have an easy series against the Ajax Knights in their first-to-six-point Ontario Minor Hockey Association semifinal series were quickly dispelled in Ajax Sunday.

After the Clippers won the first game in easy fashion over Ajax 7-1, the two clubs battled to a 2-2 overtime tie.

Trailing 2-1 late in the contest, the Clippers pulled goalkeeper Sal Rabito in favour of an extra attacker.

The move paid off as Craig

Hasler tied the game with 14 seconds remaining in regulation time.

With the score deadlocked at 0-0 entering the third period, Ajax scored the game's first goal and added their second marker with a little over three minutes remaining to take a 2-0 lead.

But the Clippers battled back when Josh Machesney delivered a shorthanded goal to cut their deficit and set the stage for Hasler's heroics.

Curtis Crago collected an assist. Despite the tie, the Clippers lead the series three points to one.

The series is scheduled to resume today in Ajax at 7:15 p.m. Game 4 goes Saturday at 6:10 p.m. at the Stouffville Arena.

Minor bantams eliminated

The Stouffville minor bantam Clippers saw their run in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association playoffs come to an end after the Uxbridge Stars eliminated them in their best-of-five semifinal series three games to one that concluded Monday with a 5-4 road loss.

The Clippers got off to a good start in the opening period and took a 1-0 lead on the strength of a goal by Taylor Peterson.

After the Stars countered with a goal just moments later, the Clippers regained the upper hand on a goal by Jordan Brillinger and carried that into the dressing room to start the second period.

The Stars battled back in the second period by scoring the first two goals to take their first lead of the game at 3-2.

But the Clippers exhibited their resiliency by tieing the score on a

goal by Nick Rabito.

That would be short-lived as the Stars scored to take a 4-3 lead into the third period.

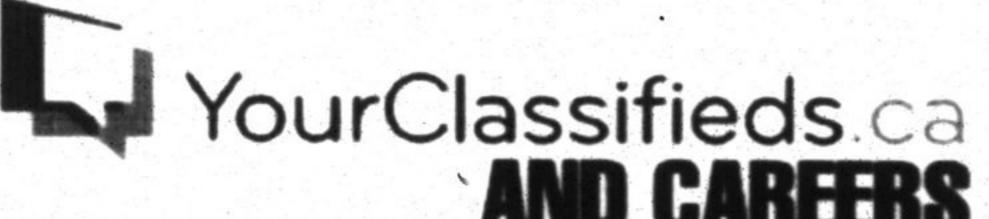
With elimination staring them in the face, the Clippers tied the score on Peterson's second goal of the game.

But with just under 10 minutes remaining in regulation time, the Stars scored what would be the game-winning marker to end the Clippers' season.

Duncan Allen, Jeremy Hughes, Ryan Daniels and Braydon McNeil each earned assists.

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