# Bantam A Stars reach final four of 40-team loop

The Markham Stouffville bantam A Stars captured the Central East Division Playoff Championship with a 2-1 win over the first place Aurora Panthers in Aurora Sunday.

Rebecca Hall and Andrea Elia each scored once for the Stars.

Emily Boston and Tori Trimble collected assists.

Frances Tenney handled netminding duties for the Stars and made several key stops, including one on a penalty shot to help preserve the win.

Launching their playoff round last month, the Stars eliminated North Simcoe in two straight games followed by the Etobicoke Dophins in three games. In the final round against Aurora, the Stars captured

the opener in Aurora 1-0 March 5.

Hanna Daniels scored the game's lone goal.

Elia collected one assist.

Tenney posted the shutout.

In the second game, the Stars and Aurora battled to a 1-1 tie at the Stouffville Arena.

By winning the series, the Stars will face the other three division champions this weekend including the Brantford Icecats, Whitby Wolves and Oakville Hornets, all playing for the Lower Lakes title.

Hall scored the lone goal for the Stars while Tenney made some key stops enabling the Stars to remain in contention and set the stage for their series clinching win.

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Only four teams from the 40-team league play in the championship final.

The final is to be played at the Hershey Centre in Mississauga.

On a separate note, the Stars began the March break by winning gold at the Leaside March Madness Tournament that was capped off with a 3-2 shootout win over the North York Storm in the final.

Hall and Dana Drew each scored once for the Stars during regulation time.

In the shootout session, Ellie Sasaki and Elia scored for the Stars, while goalkeeper Payton Melvin stopped all three North York attempts to preserve the win.

In reaching the final, the Stars were buoyed by a solid goaltending effort from Melvin and goals from Emily Boston, Danika Kuznik and Sarah Welsch to blank the Leaside Wildcats 3-0.

The Stars then doubled the count on Rideau St. Lawrence 4-2.

Boston, Daniels, Hall and Kuznik each scored once.

Juliana Hutton was credited with two assists while Jenna Steinman, Sasaki and Welsch each had one.

Concluding round robin play against the North York Storm, the Stars received a goal from Sasaki and solid netminding from Tenney to skate off with a 1-0 win and a rematch with North York in the final.

### **House league titles** on line Saturday

The Whitchurch-Stouffville Minor Hockey Association's house league season will wind down with its annual Championship Day at the Stouffville Arena Saturday.

The atom finals are scheduled to begin on Pad A at 9 a.m. followed by the Novice IP, peewee and midget/juveniles.

The bantam finals are slated to begin on Pad B at 3:15 p.m.

For more information on minor hockey in Stouffville, go to wsmha.com

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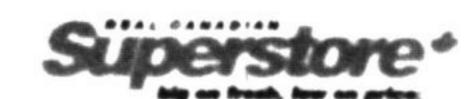
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