

YOUTH HOCKEY

Clippers grounded in final

The Stouffville novice AA Clippers were hoping to take their first-to-six-point Ontario Minor Hockey Association final series against the Oakville Rangers to the limit last weekend.

And for a brief time during Saturday's fifth game at the Stouffville Arena, they almost did after scoring the game's first goal early in the second period.

But in the end, the Rangers rallied for a pair of goals while holding the Clippers at bay to emerge with a hard-fought 2-1 win to wrap up the series seven points to three and skate off with this year's title.

Ben Andolina scored the lone goal for the Clippers while Joseph Clugston and Jack Treacy earned helpers.

"Sure, it would have been nice to win the championship, but there had to be a winner and a loser," said Clippers' head coach Dean Allan.

With each of the games in the series being relatively close, Allan felt there wasn't one factor that enabled the Rangers to win the title.

"Both teams were evenly matched," he said. "Both teams had good players, they finished hard and passed the puck well."

"Maybe they (Oakville) got some bounces in the early games, especially the first game in which they won 2-0. But I couldn't pinpoint it to one thing. Any one of the teams could have won the series."

Despite coming up short after winning the York Simcoe title with this collective group in the last two seasons, Allan was pleased with the effort his club gave during the season.

Especially since he noted his club lost four players from last year's squad who moved up to the AAA level.

"There weren't too many people who thought we would get to this point (the OMHA final). But the kids worked hard all year."

Atom A Stars shine in title game

The Markham Stouffville Stars atom A girls captured the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League title that was capped off with a hard-fought 2-1 win over Barrie in the championship final last weekend.

Amassing a first-place East Division regular season record of 15-2-5 and an overall mark of 36-8-9, the Stars won their opening game of the four-team championship weekend over the Barrie Sharks 2-0 and then battled the North Halton Twisters to a 1-1 tie.

Facing the Mississauga Chiefs in their third outing, the Stars emerged with a 1-0 win to reach the gold medal tilt.

Coached by Brad Morris along with Andrew Arseneau, Stephanie MacRae and Doug Arseneau, team members contributing to the club's success included: Rachel Beach, Alexia Stratos, Olivia Pridham, Teghan MacRae, Emily Redshaw, Megan Thompson, Caitlin Hollands, Martine Falzone, Katrina McBain, Meghan Arseneau, Karina Moffat, Emma Arseneau, Hannah Hembruff, Sarah Capodagli, Taya Leonard and Hannah Morris.

- Michael Hayakawa



STAFF PHOTO/NICK IWANYSHYN

Stouffville novice Clippers gather following their loss in the Ontario Minor Hockey Association AA finals to Oakville at the Clippers Sports Complex Saturday.

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