

Sharks happy with Saturday outcome

Loyalist women's hockey team makes strong showing

By Sarah O. Swenson

Despite having only 10 dressed skaters, the Loyalist Sharks women's hockey club made a strong semi-final showing at the Fleming tournament in Lindsay Saturday.

The Sharks were looking to improve on their quarter-final finish at the University of Toronto tournament held last November.

"I think the team put forth an amazing effort in the tournament today," said Brooke Abbott, a second-year health and fitness promotion student.

"Playing four repetitive, competitive hockey games in a row is extremely strenuous on your body and I feel like as a team we played together and did our absolute best."

The Sharks opened the tournament on the wrong foot, falling to Fleming 3-0, but bounced back in the second game to beat Fanshawe in a closely contested match 2-1, with Sharon Kennedy scoring the game winner in the dying minutes of the third period. The ladies offense continued their scoring ways and pummeled Lakehead Orillia 5-0. Though not called on often, goaltender Kim Van Pelt was solid between the pipes when called upon and earned herself the shutout.

"We have a lot of natural talent and we've really come together as a team," said defenceman Steph Crosier, a second-year journalism student. On the strength of their 1-1-1 round robin record, the Sharks advanced to the semi-final round, where they faced off against Humber. A very even contest, the game ended in a scoreless draw, forcing a shootout to declare the winner. Humber came out on top.

"I feel like we completely deserved



Photo by Rebecca Rempel

Kim Van Pelt of the Loyalist Sharks makes her second save during a three-person shootout in the semi-finals at Fleming College in Lindsay on March 9 against Humber College. Humber scored on their third shooter after a 0-0 game to advance to the finals.

to be in the finals and it hurt that we lost in a shootout," said Abbott. Humber went on to take the tournament, beating Seneca in a 2-1 shootout win.

"I think for our small school, we did very well against the big schools," said coach Pete Williams. "It's kind of nice to go in and beat everyone in their matching uniforms."

In addition to their tournament play, the ladies take part in the college's men's recreational league on Tuesday nights. The Sharks had never even won a game in league action prior to this

year, when they finished second in the standings.

The Sharks will close out this season with a one-day tournament hosted by Seneca College on Friday.

Snowmobile racing gets last-minute approval on weekend

Weather turns in participants' favour for outdoor event

By Sharon Kallaste

The first Snowmobile Ice Drag Racing event organized by the Marmora Fire Fighter's Association got the last-minute green light Saturday.

It was held at Booster Park on Crowe Lake.

Eight inches of water sat on the proposed track just two days earlier.

"We had the event tentatively cancelled on the Thursday before, but

the weather turned in our favour. We were out all day on Friday checking the lake to make sure it was safe and clearing the tracks," said event organizer Josh Morrison.

More than 500 spectators attended, with 120 snowmobiles racing in 35 classes.

Feedback received from racers and fans has the association seriously considering holding the event annually at the same location but moving it into late February.

Bonter Polaris, a dealer in the area since 1930, used to hold races every year until 2006.

"We stopped running events due primarily to escalating insurance costs, and poor weather conditions," said owner Andy Bonter.

"We had to shut down lane one, closest to shore, after a few hours. It started to get mushy and the drivers who race all year indicated that it was unsafe. So we closed the lane down and ran with two lanes — it slowed things down but the drivers were OK with it," said Morrison.

"The day was a big-time success — so much better than we ever expected," he said.

"It has been a long time since we have had drag racing in the area," said Morrison.

It can cost upwards of \$2,300 to insure a one-day event like this. It is cheaper for a non-profit organization than a commercial business.

Morrison who has been with the Marmora fire station for nine years,

and his friends at the fire station, all ride and thought it would be a great idea to hold a race fundraising event.

"We just hired a few rookies at the station and they were great at helping out with the event," said Morrison.

Morrison said racers from New York, and a team of racers who drove for more than four hours from Quebec, all said the event was a lot of fun and hope that it will run again next year.

Bonter said he is looking at starting a local circuit and running three to six short events throughout the season.

"Everyone who volunteered braved the cold and stuck it out all day," said Morrison.



For video from this weekend's Snowmobile Ice Drag Racing event in Marmora, scan this code or go to qnetnews.ca.

Loyalist students help Special Olympics

Tournament fundraiser helps basketball team go to provincial finals

By Sherry Tompkins

There was a flurry of activity at Trenton High School Friday, as they played host to a 3 on 3 basketball tournament.

The tournament was a fundraiser to help send the Quinte West Rock Special Olympics basketball team to the provincial finals in Kingston from May 31 to June 3.

The team needs \$3,000 to make the trip.

The fundraiser was organized by four Loyalist College students in the public relations program: Doug Holt, Sean Ashbridge, Beke Martin and Tara MacKinnon. Funds were raised through team entries, a canteen and a raffle table.

Eleven teams showed up for play, held in both gyms at Trenton High. A total of four games were in progress at all times.

The game raised \$600, surpassing the goal of \$500.

Denise Kozlof coach of Special Olympics basketball team for the last three years, said she was happy to see the great turnout.

Kozlof said, the total raised will now be about \$2,600.

"Transportation, lodging and meals are covered, but we need money for registration and uniforms," said Kozlof.

There are 10 players on the team, ranging in age from 10 over 30 years old. Nine of the 10 have never been to a provincial-level tournament before.

"The competition is very tough," said Kozlof, "but we believe they have a real shot."

That shot would mean attending the national competition in 2013.



Photo by Dan Pearce

Cory Jackson does a layup during the three-on-three basketball tournament fundraiser for the Quinte West Rock Special Olympics basketball team on March 9 in Trenton.

Road to the NHL starts here for eight-year-olds

Fans and players alike get caught up in Kingston OMHA championship win

By Kayla Allen

The impatient breaths leave you hesitant as you make your way through the double doors into the cold arena.

Families and friends fill every seat in the Ajax Community Centre rink on March 11. While you're trying to make your way through the crowd, you notice the tense energy filling the hallway. The little sisters of the eight-year-old boys who are about to play the game of their season walk by with their faces painted and homemade signs in their hands.

As I wait patiently for the game to start, two young boys walk into the arena with smiles from ear to ear as big as a rainbow. Both young boys sit in the row in front of me, and start yelling "Let's go Kingston!"

Not long after, "Let's go Ajax!" One side of the arena is filled with white and red Ajax jerseys and the other side is filled with red Kingston jerseys.

On my left is a mother with her two young children, both have hand-clappers and noise-makers ready to cheer on their home team like it's the Olympic gold medal game.

On the right sits an older man holding his coffee and dressed as if he's going for a walk in the arctic. There are two fathers standing beside each other with both their arms crossed, resting on the top of the boards.

As the Zamboni leaves the ice, the crowd gets louder and louder. I can see each team lined up waiting to step on the ice barely able to see over the boards.

They start banging on the glass cheering for their respective team.

One foot steps onto the ice and it looks like a stampede of rhinos racing straight for you. Thirty eight-year-old boys skate around their side of the rink staring at the other team trying to intimidate each other making me feel like I'm on the ice myself.

The buzzer goes off and the first lines get ready to skate their little legs off. The first period finishes and Kingston is up by a couple goals. I can see the exhaustion on every little boy's face as they take a fast five-minute break in between the first and second period.

I can see the parents start to pace back and forth on the Ajax side of the arena. I think to myself, "how does one deal with their eight-year-old child crying because he just lost the OMHA Eastern championship game?"

The emotions start to rush through the young boys; upset looks slowly start filling their face cages as Kingston is still winning after the second period.

As I look around me, I notice that all 11 players on the Kingston bench have tremendously big smiles on their faces and all 17 boys on the Ajax team are straight-faced.

The seconds count down on the time clock at the end of the arena. Everyone on both sides of the arena stands and starts applauding the young boys on a great game and an amazing season.

"Good job boys!" is all you can hear coming from the stands. The whole Kingston bench rushes off their bench to congratulate their goalie. Both teams line up on their blue line and wait for their coaches to hand out the medals.

I think to myself that at the age of 19, I would still be devastated if I lost in the finals.

I don't know how eight-year-old boys can be so restrained and such good sports. It makes me proud.