

Bulls fall to North Bay Battalion



Photo by Graeme Murphy

Belleville Bulls forward Maurizio Colella, No. 27 is toppled by North Bay Battalion defenceman Kyle Wood, No. 3, during second period in a game at the Yarmen arena in Belleville Ont. The game resulted in a 3-2 shootout victory for the Battalion.

Overtime shootout resulted in loss at the Yarmen Arena

By Graeme Murphy

The Belleville Bulls went head to head with the North Bay Battalion at the Yarmen Arena in Belleville on Saturday night resulting in a 3-2 win for the Battalion.

The Bulls had just come from a pull through win over the Kingston Frontenacs, which nested them in sixth place in the Ontario Hockey League's eastern conference. However they were to follow poorly in an unfortunate shootout to the Battalion.

The first period of the game went on fairly quietly, with no goals scored despite the Bulls taking 10 shots to the Battalion's eight. The period also saw no penalties, leaving the stands buzzing in anticipation with excitement in the next period.

In the second period, the Bulls' patience was rewarded as four minutes and 40 seconds into the play, forward Brett Gustavsen scored the game's first goal after receiving a pass from forward Michael Cramarossa and another assist from defenceman Justin Lemcke. The goal was Gustavsen's 14th of the season.

With only 1:13 left to go in the period, newcomer Trent Fox managed to fire the puck past Battalion goaltender Jake Kment. Matt Luff and Brandon Saigeon assisted Fox with his 10th goal of the season. The arena saw moments of joy as the period ended with a score of 2-0 for the Bulls, but the celebrations would end.

North Bay turned the game around in period three, taking the Bulls by surprise and leaving the stands in awe. At 8:29, forward Brenden Miller landed the Battalion's first goal of the night un-assisted, planting his 13th goal of the season behind goaltender Charlie Graham.

Mathew Santos secured the Battalion's second goal with only 1:45 left in the period. It was his sixth goal of the season. Fingers were crossed as the game moved into overtime.

An uneventful overtime saw no result, allowing the game to be decided by shootout. Ultimately, Swedish player Alex Henriksson scored the deciding goal, winning the game for North Bay.

The Belleville Bulls take on the Ottawa 67's this Wednesday, Feb. 8 at 7:05 p.m.

Participants take a frosty dip in the lake

By Franki Ikeman

More than 70 people braved cold temperatures and freezing rain at Crawford Dock in Kingston on Sunday for the fourth annual Ontario Law Enforcement Polar Plunge.

Teams came together to raise money for Special Olympics Ontario and jumped off the pier at Crawford Dock into the frigid waters of Lake Ontario.

Though the temperature was approaching -30 degrees C with the wind chill, with freezing rain covering everything in ice, people were excited for their chance to jump into the chilly water.

OPP Const. Stacey Campbell, one of the organizers of the plunge, said that although the weather

made it much colder for the plungers, they have never had to cancel the plunge and everyone still had a great time. Campbell said that they decided to bring plungers out in groups of 10 in order to make their time spent outside less.

Prizes were awarded to those who raised the most money, with the highest individual fundraiser winning a pair of tickets to a Toronto Maple Leafs' game.

The Professionals, a team made up of dentists, doctors, and lawyers in the community, came out on top in the team category, raising over \$15,000. They won a set of Kingston Frontenacs tickets.

Campbell said that the final tally won't be in until later, but that she is fairly confident that they raised over \$34,000 this year – and that donations are still coming in.

She said that for her, this is a great way to give back to the community and see the good that's here.

"As a police officer, you know we deal with a lot of different things at work, some being positive, some being negative so this is a very feel-good thing for myself as a police officer to be involved in such a great initiative and a great fundraiser. It is a way for me to get the community involved in a very positive way to support our athletes that need it the most and that's the athletes with intellectual disabilities," said Campbell.

The plunge is in support of the Torch Run, a massive fundraising effort for Special Olympics Ontario by law enforcement agencies across the province.

"I know almost every athlete in the Kingston area

personally and they're very proud. They call it in the Ontario law enforcement torch run and refer to us as the guardians of the flame.

"If they weren't to receive the support and the funding that we give through these sorts of initiatives and events, they wouldn't be able to compete in the sports that they can," said Campbell.

The weekend's plunge saw support and participation from the OPP, Kingston Police, Military Police, provincial and federal corrections, the RCMP, the CBSA, and Policing Foundations program.

Plunges have happened and will happen in cities and towns across the province, including Kingston, Hamilton, Windsor, York Region, Ottawa, Peel Region, Sudbury, Owen Sound, and Thunder Bay.

Anglers go topless at fundraiser

Unique twist raised funds for Terrific Kids

By Graeme Murphy

Anglers from around Ontario and Quebec came together this weekend to compete in a fishing competition with a frigid twist: a 'shirts off' ice fishing adventure held in the icy clutches of the winter cold.

For three days, avid ice fishermen congregated at Merland Park resort in Picton for the sixth-annual ice fishing derby. It raises funds for the Kiwanis International 'Terrific Kids' program.

As outlined in the organization's website, 'Terrific Kids' is a student recognition program in support of empowering youth. It's a program that promotes character development, self-esteem and perseverance by helping children set goals and to provide support to help reach them.

The derby's competition entry fee was \$250 and public admission was \$20.

Kevin Lavers, owner of Merland Park resort, said he was confident in the growth of his derby.

"We are trying to build it slowly," he said.

"Last year, we had 60-km/h winds – so that was an excuse for the locals to stay home, but this year it's not too bad. There's no excuse. I want people to come



Photo by Graeme Murphy

Blake Wisniewski, 2, enjoys a bit of ice fishing at the Merland Park sixth annual ice fishing derby in Picton, Ont.

out and enjoy the games because it's for a good cause. I really want to keep this going."

With prizes like a black heated jacket, a fish fry kit, gift cards and duffle bags, tailor-made golf clubs, and heated camo-

flauge jackets, the games were set and the stakes were high.

The second day of the derby featured

games like the 'minnow to win it' minnow mouth pass, closest to the hole golf, pitch and release fishing and the most popular, the 'shirt off, fish on' competition in which all participants prepared their rods with bait, removed their shirts, and fished shirtless for five minutes, first catch wins.

Mike Forbes of Hamilton, Ont. was this year's winner of the shivering competition.

"This is my second year coming to this event. I've only been fishing for about three years now and ice fishing is a big passion. Its just about spending time, bouncing around and finding where the schools are going" said Forbes.

As it was Forbes first time ice fishing without a shirt, he could attest to the cold experience during the thirty seconds it took for him to win the prize.

"I gotta tell ya, fishing shirtless in this weather is real cold," said Forbes. "It takes real endurance to be able to will yourself to do something like that, hang out half naked in the bitter weather over a frozen lake."

"It took guts and the will to win and all I had to do was set the butter worm on my lure, and drop it in the hole. I reeled three times, jigged my lure twice and I had my three-and-a-half inch perch. Not even 30 seconds and those golf clubs were mine!"

The on-ice games wrapped up Saturday with a total of 70 participants, 48 of whom travelled from afar. The chilly weekend ended with \$1,700 raised for the Kiwanis organization.