

# Amherst Mite Minor 'AAA' earn Don Mills tourney semifinalist title

The Amherst Mite Minor "AAA" travel hockey team traveled to Toronto, Ont. for the Don Mills Flyers Tournament held October 20-22 at the Chesswood Arena. Amherst competed against 11 teams from the Greater Toronto Hockey League and Ontario Minor Hockey Association to earn novice minor semifinalist title.

## Duffield 6, Amherst 3

On Sunday morning, Amherst faced serious competition against the top-seeded Duffield Devils in the novice minor semifinals. Amherst scored first when Jordan Martin and Carson Briere fed Adam Batz the puck on a breakaway and he put one past the Duffield netminder. However, Duffield was quick to regroup and formed an attack on Amherst's net. Caleb Hannon made a great initial save, but Duffield was there to capitalize on the rebound.

Duffield's strength showed in the second period as they benefited from two power play opportunities and earned three unanswered goals. However, Nate Berke and Batz assisted Briere as he wove through the Duffield defenders for a power-play goal.

Duffield earned two additional goals in the third period, including an unstoppable high shot by Regan Kimens, who earned three and assisted on two of Duffield's goals in the game.

With 1:40 remaining, Amherst's Jack Kelly and Blake Flanders set up a pass to Colton McKenna, who scored on strong shot off a breakaway to earn Amherst's third goal of the game.

## Amherst 8, Applewood 0

On Friday afternoon, Amherst demonstrated they were tournament contenders when they soundly defeated Applewood with contributions from every line.

Goaltender Caleb Hannon set the tone for Amherst when he denied an early Applewood breakaway with a great glove save. Devin Kasperek played strong defensively, single-handedly denying a three-on-one Applewood attack.

With 41 seconds remaining in the first period, defenseman Jordan Martin assisted Carson Briere to earn Amherst's first goal of the tourna-

ment. At the 1.8 second mark, Amherst earned its second goal on a great cooperative attack by linemates Nate Berke, Ryan Sidorski, and Camden Lock, with Berke giving Amherst a 2-0 lead at the end of the first.

Shortly after the start of the second period, Frankie Sciolino, assisted by Carson Briere, netted Amherst's third goal after a scrum in front of the Applewood net. Matt Slick was able to stop an Applewood breakaway with his smart defensive play.

With 1:05 remaining in the period, Berke went on a breakaway and scored an impressive top-shelf shot to give Amherst a 4-0 lead.

Amherst was relentless during the third period. Berke assisted on a nice goal by Lock to keep the momentum going. On the same shift, Berke broke away from the pack and put one past the Applewood netminder, earning himself a hat trick. But three was not enough for Berke, so with the assistance of Briere and Sidorski, he scored a fourth goal for Amherst.

With four seconds remaining, Martin and Blake Flanders set up Colton McKenna for a great shot that would result in Amherst's eighth goal.

Defensemen Kasperek, Slick, Martin, and Mark Gilbert played well throughout the game to aid Hannon's shutout effort.

## Amherst 3, Port Credit 0

Although Amherst was defeated 4-0 by a strong Don Mills team on Saturday morning, the team showed their resiliency on Saturday afternoon when they battled with the Port Credit Storm.

With only 3.7 seconds remaining in the first period, goaltender Caleb Hannon was simply impressive on his second spectacular glove-save of the day. Hannon used stick, pads, and glove to deny several Port Credit scoring chances throughout the game and earn his second tournament shutout.

Amherst's first goal came halfway through the second period, as McKenna connected on a sharp pass from Martin to rush the Port Credit net. The sound of McKenna's shot ringing the post as it made it's way around the inside of the Port Credit net was music to the ears of the

Amherst fans. Amherst led 1-0 at the end of the second period.

Shortly into the third, Adam Batz stole the puck at the blue line and skated it in to earn Amherst's second goal. A minute later, Martin passed to Berke who skated effortlessly on a breakaway to earn Amherst's third tally and secure Amherst's berth in the semifinals.

## Amherst Mite Minor 'AAA' sweeps Brantford

The Amherst Mite Minor "AAA" travel hockey team traveled to the Wayne Gretzky Sports Centre in Brantford, Ont. on Saturday, Oct. 14 to play the Brantford Sportsbiz 99ers.

## Amherst 2, Brantford 0

Although Amherst played with a short bench, the team showed its depth as it defeated Brantford by capitalizing on the versatility of several key players. The defensive talents of Jordan Martin, Matt Slick, Ryan Sidorski and Mark Gilbert limit-

ed Brantford's scoring chances in the game.

Less than one minute into the second period, Nate Berke lifted the puck over the left hand side of Brantford's goalie to give Amherst a 1-0 lead.

Later in the period, Nate Berke impressed the Brantford crowd as he skillfully wove around the Brantford defenders to net an awesome short-handed goal to give Amherst a 2-0 victory. Forwards Blake Flanders, Camden Lock, Colton McKenna, Jack Kelly and Adam Batz worked together to keep the pressure on the Brantford net. Goaltender Caleb Hannon earned a shutout.

## Amherst 4, Brantford 1

Amherst prevailed 4-1 in the second pairing of the day in an extended 40-minute game. There were no signs of fatigue on the shortened Amherst bench as they kept the pressure on Brantford for the entire game.

Halfway through the first period

Matt Slick and Blake Flanders worked to feed Colton McKenna the puck which he blasted up high over the left side of the Brantford netminder.

Despite playing short-handed, Camden Lock, with the assistance of Jack Kelly and Nate Berke, picked up a puck behind the Brantford net and scored on a sweet wraparound goal to give Amherst a 2-0 lead at the end of the first period.

Only seven seconds into the second period, Ryan Sidorski and Camden Lock set up Nate Berke off the faceoff as he fired a shot in the top right corner.

In the third, Berke, Lock and Sidorski battled together in a scrum in front of the Brantford net. Berke, assisted by Lock and Sidorski, earned Amherst's fourth goal of the game. With only 1:49 remaining in the game, Brantford's Alexander Polillo scored Brantford's solitary goal on a Brantford power play.

## Boston College, Lake Superior skate to 2-2 tie

The Boston College Golden Eagles and Lake Superior State Lakers opened the Bantam season Sunday night on the Amherst Pepsi Center's Feature Rink. The teams skated to a 2-2 tie.

The Eagles came out hard in the first period and tested the newly acquired Laker goalie Anthony Kroese early and often.

Kroese turned away several great opportunities, including a breakaway by Joe Ray to keep the game scoreless through the first.

The Lakers took the game to the Eagles in the second period. Defensemen Trevor Barrett and Alex Shanahan did a fine job clearing the puck and initiated several rushes out of their own zone.

Midway through the second, the Lakers' hard work paid off. While on the power play, Laker Tyler Senay forechecked an Eagle defenseman and forced an errant pass up the middle. Brendan Vujcec knocked the puck out of the air in the slot and took a hard shot that was turned away by Eagle netminder Sean Martin. Gregory Slawson pounced on the rebound and sent a shot passed the sprawling goaltender to put the Lakers on top 1-0.

Three minutes later, the Eagles knotted the score when Joe Ray split the Laker defense and went in all alone on Kroese. Ray made no mistake this time and

buried a hard wrist shot to tie it up.

It didn't take long for the Lakers to strike again. The Lakers had possession in the offensive zone. Blue-liner Barrett made a nice play to keep it in and fired a hard slap shot. Martin made a nice save but Senay picked up a rebound to the left of the net and quickly fired it home to put the Lakers back on top. The second period ended with the Lakers holding on to a slim 2-1 lead.

Both teams had several scoring chances in the third. Three minutes in, Laker Cal Eichhorn, exiting the penalty box, picked up a loose puck in the neutral zone, outraced the Eagle defense and went in all alone on Martin.

Eichhorn deked but Martin stayed right with him to make the save and keep the score close. The Eagles' Matt Territo, Jamie Floss and Ronnie Cooper led several rushes into the offensive zone but the Laker defense, led by DJ Scinta, Matt Linvall and Zach Adams, were able to limit their chances.

With just under two minutes to play, Eagle forward Tim Ray picked up the puck at his own blue line. Ray flew up the left side and caught the Lakers out of position. He went hard to the net around the defense and slid the puck in the short side to give the Eagles a well-deserved tie.

## Bisons open season on mixed note

The North Buffalo Bisons Pee Wee Major Tier II opened its 2006-07 season with a 5-0 loss to Rochester last Friday then earned a 3-3 tie against Hamburg Hawks on Saturday.

Rochester kept the Bisons bottled up most of the night, unable to get quality shots on goal. The lone bright spot was the stellar play of netminder Jimmy Basil, who kept the game close for awhile.

Hamburg scored first, but was

matched by Oscar Ostendorf in the first period, unassisted.

The Hawks tallied two second period goals to start the third up two before the Bisons went to work. With Andrew Werynski between the pipes, the defense of Sean Basil, Dean Arthur, Joshua Little, Max Capizzi, and Mason Evans, shut down the Hawks' scoring chances.

The offense of Rickey Wiorowski, Marc Bezbatchenko, Ostendorf, An-

drew Rampaldo, Alex Lavera, Kyle Moslow, John Lenahan, Jordan Rusek, JC Grabenstatter, John Hettrick, and Austin Kneer sent line after line against the Hamburg goalie. Moslow scored halfway through the third to bring the Bisons to within one, unassisted. Then, having pulled the goalie for an extra attacker, Ostendorf (Bezbatchenko) got the equalizer with two seconds remaining on the clock.

The Bisons play at Jamestown next Sunday. A weekend tournament in Canandaigua was cancelled last weekend due to the snowstorm.

## Sports briefs

Amherst resident **Christa Gorenflo** placed third in the 200-yard breaststroke in 2:36.09 for the George Washington University women's swimming team at a quad meet held Oct. 14 at Loyola College.

The sectional competition for the **National Football League Punt, Pass and Kick contest** hosted by the YMCA Buffalo-Niagara has been rescheduled for Saturday, Oct. 28, at the Ralph Wilson Field House, 1 Bills Drive, Orchard Park.

The competition had been scheduled for Oct. 14, but was postponed due to the snowstorm.

The competition will feature four age groups, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13 and 14-15. Registration will begin at 1:15 p.m. for the 8-9 year olds, 1:45 p.m. for the 10-11 year olds, 2:30 p.m. for the 12-13 year olds and 3 p.m. for the 14-15 year olds.

The winners in each category will advance to the team championship held during the Buffalo Bills-Green Bay Packers game Sunday, Nov. 5.



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