

# Pee Wee Knights crowned champions of Top Gun tourney

Beating their cross town rivals on home ice at the Amherst Pepsi Center, the Pee Wee Minor "A" Knights were crowned the 2007 Top Gun Tournament Champions.

In the first game of the tournament, the team tied the Buffalo Regals on goals from Trevor Berninger and defenseman Joey Anain. Forward Tommy Fretz lit the lamp as a reward for his tenacious play. Assists from forwards Jake Kopacz, Johnny Bielinski, Randy Brown and defenseman Tyler Penberthy, along with the solid play of netminder Jake Stanley, helped the team earn one point for the tie.

The Knights came back strong the next day to beat Rosedale, 5-4. Leading the offensive charge was game MVP Brown, who racked up three points. The chemistry between linemates Jason Cohen and Eddie Rutkowski generated a goal and an assist for each player. Centerman Marc Ruszaj's non-stop hustle supported linemate Fretz's speed, who ripped a shot past the Rosedale goaltender.

Defenseman Matt Prangel and forward Adam Russell's physical play earned each of them an assist. Goalie Patrick Yustin came up with a huge



**The Amherst Pee Wee Minor "AA" Knights** defeated the Cazenovia Chiefs, 3-1, to win the Top Gun Tournament. Members of the team, pictured from left, are: laying down, Jake Stanley and Patrick Yustin; kneeling - Adam Russell, Jake Spring, Jake Kopacz, Jason Cohen, Jonny Lunney, Eric Oswald, Eddie Rutkowski, Trevor Berninger, Marc Ruszaj, Tommy Fretz;

pad save in the last minute to seal the victory.

Facing the Cazenovia Chiefs, the Knights dropped their only game in

the tournament in an outing that was closer than the 3-1 score indicated.

Although the Knights peppered the Chiefs' netminder, only Fretz was

standing - Johnny Bielinski, Tyler Penberthy, Randy Brown, Matt Prangel, Lauton Rushford, Derek Scolnick, Joey Anain; missing from photo - Caitlin Mitchell; coaching staff - Brendan Pleskow (kneeling front row); standing back row - Jim D'Angelo, Aaron Pleskow, Mike Mussel, head coach Bruce Pleskow and Dave Weimer; missing from photo - manager Bob Cohen.

able to score (Rushford, Penberthy).

Going into game four, the Knights needed a victory for the right to play for the title. Stepping up to the chal-

enge, 11 of 16 Knights skaters earned at least one point in an offensive explosion, beating Cheektowaga, 7-4.

Berninger, Bielinski and Brown each scored one, with Cohen (game MVP) and forward Lauton Rushford each putting two in the back of the net (Anain, Prangel, Penberthy, Jake Spring). Strong defense from Eric Oswald and Derek Scolnick helped netminder Yustin turn away all but four shots.

Although the Knights lost to the Chiefs earlier in the tournament, they played their best game when it counted, in the championship game. Berninger (MVP, two goals) and Rutkowski again led Amherst to a 3-1 victory. Fretz, Bielinski and Kopacz skated hard for the Knights. Blue liners Scolnick, Prangel, Oswald, Spring, Penberthy and Anain were instrumental in the victory. Netminder Stanley stood tall between the pipes, making key stops late in the third period to turn back the relentless Chiefs as they tried unsuccessfully to catch up with a very determined Knights team.

The Amherst Knights are coached by Bruce Pleskow along with his sons Aaron and Brendan, Dave Weimer, Mike Mussel and Jim D'Angelo.

## Micron Red Sabres prevail, 6-4

The Amherst Micron League had yet again another captivating game between the Red Sabres and the Black Sabres.

The game was quite entertaining as the two teams battled back and forth for the lead, and would not be settled until the last few minutes in the game.

The Red Sabres ended up on top, 6-4, with both teams showing much spirit till the bitter end. The scoring started with Black Sabre Eric Cretella skating in on a breakaway to push one by the Red Sabre goalie. The Red Sabres countered with a difficult goal from Griffin Green to tie the game at 1-1. Jon Kubiak allowed the Black

Sabres to go up 2-1 in this seesaw battle.

This was followed with goals from Rian Bisson and John Weppner to put the Red Sabres up 3-2. However, the Black Sabres tied it up once again at 3-3 when DJ Andrews scored, then took the lead at 4-3 with a goal by Jack Smith.

The Red Sabres scored the next three goals with Jeffrey Cummins scoring first, followed by two outstanding goals by Adam Pohrte to end the game 6-4.

The Red Sabres finished with 18 shots to the Black Sabres' 13. The Black Sabres' Skyler Derose and Red Sabre Benjamin Weppner stopped shots from all angles.

## Blue Sabres win high-scoring game

It may have been cold outside, but the Amherst Micron Blue and Gray Sabres heated things up inside of the Amherst Pepsi Center on Sunday. The Blue Sabres won 12-11.

The Blue Sabres took the early lead with Kellen Pulera scored two goals on his first shift. Pulera ended up with a hat trick.

The Gray Sabres woke up and stormed the ice, scoring the next four goals. Ryan Meade, Vincent Orlowski, and Jack Ohle scored for the Gray Sabres.

Charleigh Rondeau scored his first career goal. Andrew Bruno and Collin Mack each netted two goals for the Gray Sabres.

Sean Macleay led the Gray Sabre scoring with a hat trick. Spencer Frome, Lorenzo Zendano, Matthew Bielinski, and Alec Cicero all made strong plays to keep the Blue Sabres on their toes.

The Blue Sabres kept the pressure on from start to finish. Scoring for the Blue Sabres were Alexander Scarozza and Calogeno Santora. Donovan McCann also scored his first career goal. Liam Gallagher, Dante Santora, and Eli Utz each scored two goals to help the Blue Sabres win.

Strong defensive plays were made by Gianna Santora, Sal Farrauto, Rachael Juneau, and Liam Evenson. Theo Gogos made some great saves in net for the Blue Sabres.

## Northeast YMCA Sharks make splash

The Northeast YMCA Sharks made a big splash at the 2007 Goodwill Invitational Swim Meet.

The meet was held Jan. 14 at Erie Community College's Burt Flickinger pool and attended by 17 teams and nearly 500 swimmers.

Hosting the Goodwill Meet was the WNY YMCA Swim League. Teams as far away as Watertown and Cortland, N.Y., attended the day-long event.

The Northeast Sharks entered 190 events and earned many ribbons. Jonathan Zarzeckis' fast swim in the 25 freestyle will qualify him for the state championship in Cortland, N.Y.

First-place ribbons were garnered by the dynamic relay team for the girls' 10 and under for both freestyle and medley. Those swimmers are Aleza Epstein, Olivia Marable, Madison Reimers and Emily Smith.

First-place ribbons in individual events were awarded to Karalyn

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## Undefeated Mite Rangers blank Red Wings, 8-0

A match-up of offensively explosive teams proved one-sided as Alex Streg's first career hat trick and stifling team defense propelled the unbeaten Mite Rangers to a very impressive 8-0 victory over the Red Wings Sunday at the Amherst Pepsi Center.

The Rangers staved off a furious start by the Red Wings, who buzzed around the Ranger net for the entire first shift of the game, but the Rangers began to take over the game midway through the first period.

About four minutes into the game, the Rangers got their first true scoring chance with a nifty passing play up ice from Mark Venditti to Patrick Rosen to Cam Kiefer, but Kiefer was denied.

The Rangers finally broke the ice with 4:19 left in the period, as William Mann pushed the puck up into the neutral zone and Brennan Hurley outraced a Red Wing defenseman to the puck, gathered it in, and put it home.

The Rangers increased their lead to 2-0 with less than two minutes remaining in the period. Mann got the puck out of his zone and Streg pounced on it in the neutral zone, blazed away and let go a wrist shot that found the back of the net.

Venditti then pinballed a shot off a

Red Wing defenseman from a sharp angle to make it 3-0 midway through the second period. A couple of minutes later, Venditti got the puck to a racing Michael Kreuz just outside of his own blue line and Kreuz went coast to coast to make it 4-0 Rangers.

Streg made the score 5-0 just 30 seconds into the third period when he took a pass from Kiefer and ragged the puck behind the Red Wing net before wrapping around and scoring on the back hand.

With six minutes left in the game, Streg scored again when his shot just trickled over the goal line.

The Rangers went up 7-0 after Matt Cohen took a pass from Chris Dirienzo and let go a wrist shot that went in off of the goal post.

Hurley then closed out the scoring with his second of the game.

Jake Kantor made some key saves and got the shutout in goal for the Rangers. Kantor got tremendous help from his teammates, as the Rangers played suffocating team defense all game long and limited the Red Wings' scoring chances.

Drew Elliott, Ryan Arrastia, Jonathan Phillips, Jason Koginos, and Patrick Greeley all played particularly well defensively for the Rangers.

## Squirt Flyers post 6-5 win over Stars

The Squirt Flyers pulled out a 6-5 win in a high scoring heated match against the Stars on Sunday.

Mark Christy of the Flyers lit up the scoreboard first for his team when he took advantage of a well-timed pass from teammate Anthony Macchia and sliced one between the pipes.

The Flyers' Trevor Shaw was on fire throughout the game and his fierce combination of speed and natural talent helped him score four key goals for his team. His assists came from Conner Mulvey, Austin Gallagher and James Mueller.

Gregory Sibick of the Flyers also lit up the scoreboard in the third period with a breakaway that left the Stars in the dust.

Outstanding plays for the Flyers were also made by Nick Schiappa, Eric Bailey, Amir Gulati and Dean Battaglia.

## HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CALENDAR

### Thursday, Jan. 24

**Boys bowling:** Pioneer at Amherst, 4:30 p.m. (Airport)  
**Girls bowling:** Pioneer at Amherst, 4:30 p.m. (Airport)  
**Boys swimming:** Sweet Home at East, 6 p.m. (Transit Middle)

### Thursday, Jan. 25

**Boys basketball:** Sweet Home at Jamestown, 7:30 p.m.; South at Amherst, 7:30 p.m.  
**Girls basketball:** Sweet Home at W.S. West, 7:30 p.m.  
**Hockey:** North vs. Lancaster, 7 p.m. (Olympic); South vs. Ken. East, 9 p.m. (Olympic)  
**Wrestling:** East at Holley (Section V) 6 p.m.

### Friday, Jan. 26

**Boys basketball:** Hamburg at East, 7:30 p.m.; North at Frontier, 7:30 p.m.; Bishop Timon-St. Jude at South, 7:30 p.m.  
**Girls basketball:** East at W.S. East, 7:30 p.m.; Clarence at North, 7:30 p.m.; South at Hamburg, 7:30 p.m.  
**Hockey:** Sweet Home vs. Churchville-Chili (Section V), 8 p.m. (Feature); Geneseo Tourn. — Amherst vs. Geneseo (Geneseo State College), 8 p.m.  
**Boys swimming:** Lackawanna at Amherst, 5 p.m. (Sweet Home); Sweet Home at Frontier, 5 p.m., W.S. East at East, 6 p.m. (Transit Middle); South at Depew, 4:30 p.m.  
**Wrestling:** Amherst, East at Lew-Port Tourn., TBA; Sweet Home at Sweet Home Tourn., TBA; North at Clarence, 6:30 p.m.

### Saturday, Jan. 27

**Girls basketball:** Rochester Nazareth at Sacred Heart, 3 p.m.

**Hockey:** East vs. North, 1 p.m. (Feature); South vs. Lancaster, 3 p.m. (Feature); Sweet Home vs. Orchard Park, 3 p.m. (Olympic); Geneseo Tourn. — Amherst vs. Victor (Section V), TBA

**Indoor track:** Amherst, East, South, North at Lancaster, noon; Sweet Home at Fredonia, 9 a.m.

**Wrestling:** Amherst, East at Lew-Port Tourn., TBA Sweet Home at Sweet Home Tourn., TBA; North at Depew Tourn., 9 a.m.

### Sunday, Jan. 28

**Hockey:** South vs. Canisius, 5 p.m. (Buffalo State College)

### Monday, Jan. 29

**Girls basketball:** Jamestown at North, 7:30 p.m.; Sacred Heart vs. Holy Angels at St. Joe's, 8 p.m.  
**Hockey:** Amherst vs. Frontier, 5 p.m. (Hamburg)

### Tuesday, Jan. 30

**Boys basketball:** Amherst at W.S. East, 7:30 p.m., Sweet Home at W.S. West, 7:30 p.m.; East at Iroquois, 6:30 p.m.; Clarence at North, 7:30 p.m.; South at Lake Shore, 7:30 p.m.  
**Girls basketball:** Amherst at Springville, 7:30 p.m.; Lancaster at Sweet Home, 7:30 p.m.; East at Clarence, 7:30 p.m.  
**Boys bowling:** North at Orchard Park, 3:30 p.m. (Orchard Park Lanes)  
**Girls bowling:** North at Orchard Park, 3:30 p.m. (Orchard Park Lanes)  
**Boys swimming:** Lancaster at Sweet Home, 4:30 p.m.; East at Hamburg, 5 p.m.; Orchard Park at North, 5 p.m.; Alden at South, 4:30 p.m.