

# Pee Wee Major 'AA' Knights take second at tourney

The Amherst Knights Pee Wee Major "AA" team, coached by John DiDonato, captured second place in the Rock-n-Roll Hockey Tournament held in Cleveland, Ohio during Presidents Day weekend.

The Knights started the tournament with a hard fought 5-4 loss to eventual tournament champions, North Olmsted Eagles. Goalie T.J. Brodzick fended off numerous scoring opportunities the entire game. After trailing 5-2 going into the third period with goals from Sam Kraus and Brad Ferrell, Amherst found their offensive punch with power-play goals from Christian Curatolo and Adam Hepp but could not produce the fifth goal.

The Knights took their new found full speed attitude into game two against hometown rivals, West Seneca Wings. Goal-tender Tommy Styn and defensemen Benny Ferro, Bobby Finley, Patrick Hurtubise, Joey Kersten, Nick Kowalski and Sam

Kraus, shut down the Wings offense and earned a 5-1 victory. Amherst goals came from Joe Todaro, Finley, Kowalski and Ferrell (two).

The Knights third tournament game matched them against the Cleveland Catholic Youth Hockey Organization. The 4-1 victory placed Amherst into the championship game.

T.J. Brodzick earned the victory with goals provided by Michael Phillips, Michael Nowicki, Ferrell, Curatolo, and Kraus.

As the team waited to find out who they would play in the finals, they traveled to Jamestown to compete in the first round of the WNYAH league playoffs. The Knights were successful in extending their winning streak as they won a hard-hitting game 2-1 with Styn earning the victory.

After Amherst took a two-goal lead with scoring from Kowalski and Phillips, they locked down Jamestown's offense

with John Richmond and George Zimmermann leading the way in shutting down Jamestown's aggressive third period effort.

On championship Monday, Amherst found itself climbing an up-hill battle against the North Olmsted Eagles. The team was without Alex DiDonato, due to a previous week injury, and trailed 3-1 after the first period with their only goal coming from Ferrell. As the game marched on, the Knights took emotional control of the game with goals from Hepp in the second period and with three minutes left in the game, Curatolo pulled Amherst within one.

The final minute of play proved exciting but scoreless for the Knights as they fell short of putting the game into overtime and had to settle for a silver medal.

This week, the Knights will continue their WNYHA league playoffs with a semifinal match up against number one seed Webster to earn their way into the championship game.

## Flyers skate past Bruins, 5-2

The Pee Wee Flyers beat a depleted Bruins team, 5-2, on Feb. 18 in a game between two evenly matched teams.

After the Bruins jumped out to a 1-0 lead, the Flyers' Joe Bengart tied the score at 1-1 with less than three minutes remaining in the period. The play was set up by the extra effort and assist of Lauton Rushford.

The Flyers kept up the pressure and took the lead midway through the second period on an unassisted goal by Dan Schlein. Shortly afterward, Vinnie Dirienzo's

unassisted effort led to a goal and a 3-1 Flyers lead.

The Bruins narrowed the gap to 3-2 early in the third period, but less than a minute later, Casey Willer made the score 4-2 with an assist from Bengart. The Flyers put the game away 20 seconds later with Schlein's second goal of the game to make it 5-2. The assists on the final goal went to Rushford and Richie Hunter.

Both teams look as if they are poised to do well in the upcoming playoffs.

## Bisons prepare for Rochester

The Pee Wee Major "AA" North Buffalo Bisons prepare to take on Rochester Youth on Wednesday in the semifinals of the WNYAHL playoffs. The game will be held at the ESL Center in Rochester. Rochester has defeated the Bisons in both regular season meetings.

Coach Pat Dwyer's icemen tuned up for the game by winning two of three games in the Niagara Tourna-

ment, defeating Hamburg, 4-0, losing to host Grand Niagara, 5-3, and defeating Parma, Ohio, 5-3.

Tending the nets were Jimmy Basil and Andrew Werynski, as the Bisons outshot each opponent. Scoring goals were Andrew Rampado, on a nice wraparound, Ricky Wiorkowski, Mason Evans, Austin Kneer, Kyle Moslow, and Marc Bezbachenko. Oscar Ostendorf, John Lenahan, Jordan

Rusek, Dean Arthur, JC Grabenstatter, and John Hettrick stormed the opponents' net with scoring chances, while Alex Laversa, Sean Basil, Josh Little, and Max Capizzi kept the goal clear for Buffalo.

The Bisons played Tonawanda Lightning to a 3-3 tie on Saturday, with Bezbachenko scoring two, his first coming eight seconds into the game. Kneer tallied the third.

## Mite Sharks win first playoff victory

Excitement was in the air Sunday morning at the Amherst Pepsi Center as the Mite Sharks took on the White Sabres for a thrilling game. The Sharks won 3-1.

Great goaltending for both teams, Holden Greene for the Sharks and Michael Wells for the White Sabres, denied countless opportunities that kept the game scoreless well into the third period.

Michael Woods slipped a back-handed shot past Wells to give the Sharks a 1-0 lead. The White Sabres quickly tied it up with a beautiful breakaway goal by Brady Kyle, who went top shelf, beating Greene on the glove side.

Nick Daigler then took the puck up the ice and scored to give the Sharks back the lead. Woods with an assist by Dave Matthew, scored his second of the game to give the Sharks a 3-1 win.

The Sharks played hard with great passing and offensive skills shown by Bennett Levy, Maddy Utz, Sal DiNatale, Jacob Barberio, Tom Cruver, Matthew and Woods. Playing outstanding defense were Reed Bihary, Dylan Utz, Ben Glajch, Michael Krasinski and Daigler. Despite playing short-handed, the White Sabres had outstanding efforts by Jeff Browne, Matthew Jefferies, Dallas Brown, Sam Kiberk, Danielle Trubish, and Kyle.

## Defense keeps Mite Bruins undefeated in playoffs

In their second playoff game of the 2007 season, the Mite Bruins played one of their most impressive defensive games of the year. The game ended with the Bruins on top of the Gray Sabres, 5-1, which was not an indicator of how close the game really was.

The speed of Gray Sabres Rachel Deperio and Austin Martin created many challenges for the Bruins. It was the defensive combination of Ellie Garrity and Justin Presutti who kept the speed of the Gray Sabres from capitalizing early in the first period.

Leah Czerwinski got the Bruins on the board midway through

the first period with an unassisted goal. Not to be out done, Tommy Ruggiero received a nice pass from Isaac Nueman to tie the game up late in the first. After that goal, Jacob Zurat would not allow any other goals the rest of the game, stopping some good chances from Zach Hurrell, Noah Rienhart, and Adam Higgins.

The second period was highlighted by the teamwork of Joey DeMarco and Matt Drewery. The tandem netted the next three goals of the game with DeMarco scoring twice and Drewery getting one. Going to the net strong all period was Joshua Gordon, Elena Kotrides, and Czerwinski. The defense of Chris

Baker and goaltending of Scott Daigler came up strong and was able to keep the Gray Sabres within striking distance.

The third period continued with more Bruins pressure on the Gray Sabres. Dylan Birzon, Steven Metzger and Quinn Verpoten put one shot after another on the Gray Sabres' goaltender. The Bruins tallied their final goal of the game when Cole Donhauser would not give up and used his strength to get the puck into the net. Later in the period, Anthony DeMaria attempted an acrobatic back-handed shot that Daigler was able to push aside. Matthew Maynard and Christopher Mostowy were on the ice at the end and skated hard to seal the victory for the Bruins.

## Stars victorious over Black Sabres in hard-fought battle

Fans were treated to another exciting game at the Amherst Pepsi Center as the Mite Stars took on the Black Sabres this past weekend. The Stars won 5-3.

When the teams met during the regular season, the Black Sabres bested the Stars, but this was not to be the case during this meeting. The Black Sabres struck first as Daniel

Mosher beat the Stars defense to a loose puck dumped in to the Stars zone by Noah Rosenthal and placed a shot top shelf over goaltender Michael Trossman.

The lead did not last long though as Logan Gare poked in the puck after Black Sabre goalie Charles Rotner made the initial stop to tie the score.

The score remained tied with the close checking play moving from one end to the other. Trossman and Rotner stood in to foil their opponents' chances.

As the second period wound down, the Black Sabres again hit a soft spot in the Stars' defense as Rosenthal found the back of the net after taking a pass from Mosher. The following

shift, Noah Bachwitz slid another shot past Trossman.

The Stars answered back on the last shift of the period as Nick Kieffer flipped a rebound from a Max Ferro shot over the top of a sprawled Rotner.

The final period saw the Stars come alive as the second line of Kieffer, Ferro, Gare, Michael Callesio and Michael Gagliano scored twice on one

shift, putting the Stars up by one.

Late in the period, Jake Siegel added an insurance goal with a fantastic individual effort for the Stars.

The Stars' first line of Cam Carney, Jake Siegel, Bryce Baker, and defender Connor Bender also demonstrated superb discipline holding the Black Sabres' very dangerous counterparts scoreless.

## Micron Black Sabre goalie Tyler Rossi follows father's skates, picks up win

Coach Bob Rossi has been keeping a secret all season, but that secret was revealed on Sunday as his son Tyler Rossi followed in his dad's skates between the pipes.

Tyler Rossi's first time in goal proved to be more than the Red Sabres could handle, as he blocked just about everything thrown at him.

Allowing just two goals, Rossi played spectacular hockey as the Micron Black Sabres won 11-2.

Meanwhile, the Black Sabres erupted with goals from Will Redding, Jon Kubiak, and Kevin Halpern, who each scored twice. Eric Cretella had a goal and two assists. Jack and Nick Smith

combined for a goal each. Derek Andrews sealed the game with the final goal.

For the Red Sabres, Jeffrey Cummings had a goal and an assist which led to a phenomenal one-timer by Cameron Briere. Goalie Gunar Weppner had his hands full with the Black Sabre attack, but held his own, stopping a flurry

of shots. Griffen Green and Ben Weppner put pressure on Tyler Rossi with a barrage of tough shots.

Other notables from the Black Sabres include Ethan Barnes, Skyler Derosé, and Eric Metz, whose defensive game nullified several Red charges.

## White Sabres defeat Gold, 5-4

The White Sabres closed the door on the Gold Sabres on Sunday with a 5-4 win at the Amherst Pepsi Center.

Ben Siegel started the scoring for the White Sabres with a pretty shot that went through the five-hole.

Gold Sabre Jacob Wehr put two goals in the net to put the Gold back up on top. It didn't take long for the White Sabres to come back as Colton Brown broke away from the pack, went around the net, and put in a goal on the side.

White Sabre TJ Conway had a beautiful goal to give his team the lead. Gold Sabres Michael Kaplan and Thomas Peers each got a goal, moving the Gold up front.

Great defensive skill by CJ Goss and Jack Gilbert kept

the Gold Sabres in check.

The White Sabres, Colin Deakin, Colin Branka and Cameron Hogan had many shots on net but Gold Sabre goalie Anthony Trigilio made some great saves. White Sabre Patrick Gilbert went top shelf to tie it up.

Zach Rehbaum was strong between the pipes saving attempts from Gold Sabres Elisabeth Sidorski, Raymond Faran and Alex Pronobis. The White Sabres' Gabe Rapini and Rylan Stamm both had scoring chances but the Gold Sabres kept them away.

White Sabre Patrick Gilbert had the game winner that stunned the Gold Sabres.

### Sports brief

**The Northtown Boys Basketball League**, one of seven (parochial/middle school) boys' leagues in the Catholic Diocese of Buffalo will be hosting a doubleheader of all-star games at 3 and 4:30 p.m. Sunday, March 4 at St. Stephen School Gymnasium, 2080 Baseline Road, Grand Island.

Players from Covenant Academy, St. Amelia, and St. Edmund of Tonawanda; DeSales Catholic of Lockport; St. Dominic Savio (Red) of Niagara Falls; North Tonawanda Catholic of North Tonawanda will compete at 3 p.m. Members from St. Stephen of Grand Island, St. Dominic Savio (White) of Niagara Falls, St. Francis of Tonawanda (city), St. Leo of Amherst, and St. Peter & Stella Niagara of Lewiston will play at 4:30 p.m.