

Bowles strikes four times

BY DEREK JORY

Undermanned and undersized, the Elkhorn Canadians flourished in their role as underdogs in their Pee wee A semifinal game against the Neepawa Natives Saturday afternoon in the 40th annual Maple Leaf/Victoria Inn Tournament of Champions.

The Canadians, who finished 2-1 in the round-robin of the youth hockey tournament, beat the previously undefeated Natives 6-3 to advance to today's championship final at the Optimist Arena at 9:45 a.m.

Shawn Bowles scored twice in the first period and finished with four goals and an assist, while goaltender Mac Gregoire made 27 saves to backstop Elkhorn to the upset win.

"Our guys worked pretty hard and I was just trying to stop all the shots I could," said Gregoire. "My team passed the puck and shot when they could and I just tried to play good."

Neepawa had scored a division-high 25 goals coming into the game, but couldn't find its mojo on this day against Gregoire and the Elkhorn defence. It also didn't help that the Canadians jumped out to a 3-1 lead just over six minutes into the game.

"The boys came to play today," said Elkhorn head coach Dennis Kyle. "Usually we get off to a slow start, so this was probably one of the best starts we've had in the last few games and we needed that against a team like Neepawa. I was really impressed with our hard work and work ethic."

Elkhorn, which has been playing with a shorthanded 13-man roster this tournament, will need to be at its best in today's championship final against the Macdonald Twisters, who beat



Elkhorn's Shawn Bowles (right) and Neepawa's Quinton Lisoway battle for the puck Saturday afternoon. (Tim Smith/Brandon Sun)

them 5-2 in the round robin. "The boys want another shot at them," said Kyle. "We're going to have to play probably our best game, a lot like we did today, if we want to have a chance."

The Twisters advanced to the final with a 5-4 win over the Estevan Bruins in the other semifinal game. Despite doubling the Bruins in shots at

42-21, Macdonald needed two late goals in the third period to beat Estevan. Devin Muir led the Twisters with two goals.

Estevan will meet Neepawa in the bronze final this morning at the Optimist at 8 a.m. The Natives beat the Bruins 6-2 when the teams met in the round robin, with Kyle McDonald and Quinton

Lisoway each scoring twice.

Elsewhere, the St. James Canadians beat the Crescent Point Wings 3-2 in overtime to win the consolation final. Kevin Breen was the hero as he scored the game winner. Crescent advanced to face the Canadians with a 6-2 win over the Brandon Wheat Kings in the consolation semifinal. Defenceman Nick

Zerie had two goals for the Wings, while Taylor Woods and Oliver Schminke replied for the Wheaties. Meanwhile, St. James beat Moose Jaw 3-2 to advance to the consolation final. Drey Rannard scored twice and Dane Schioler scored the game-winner in the third period for the Canadians.

» Brandon Sun

Brandon Atoms in final

Tyson Verhelst turned aside 34 shots and Jordan Stallard scored three goals and had an assist in semifinal action Saturday as the Brandon Atom AA Wheat Kings beat the St. Boniface Seals 8-2, to earn a berth into Sunday's Atom championship final.

The Wheat Kings will battle the Virden Oil Kings today at the Sportsplex at 11:30 a.m. The Seals will meet the Macdonald Twisters in the bronze final Sunday at the Sportsplex at 9:45 a.m., while the Estevan Bruins will battle Boissevain in the consolation final at the Sportsplex at 8 a.m. Here's a look at Saturday's action from the Tournament of Champions:

ATOM
Virden Oil Kings 5
Macdonald Twisters 1

The Oil Kings advanced to the final with a 5-1 semifinal win over Macdonald. Montana Masson continued to impress with another two goals, giving the forward seven goals and nine points in the tournament.

Boissevain 6
Lumsden/Bethune Lions 4
Jordan McCausland led the Boissevain attack with three goals and three assists, and Meyer Nell chipped in with a pair of goals and an assist in the consolation semifinal.

Estevan Bruins 6
Brandon A Wheat Kings 5
Ryan Smith's third period goal stood as the game-winner for the Bruins they won the other consolation semifinal. Smith finished with four goals. Andrew Paul was the player of the game for the Wheat Kings for his three-goal performance.

Tournament of Champions

PEEWEE AA
Fort Frances KofC 4
Brandon Wheat Kings 3

Colton Spicer scored the shootout winner as the Knights beat the Wheat Kings in the semifinal to advance to the championship game against the Yorkton UCT Terriers at 12 noon at the Kinsmen Arena.

The Wheat Kings and the Lumsden/Bethune Lions will square off in the bronze final today at the Kinsmen Arena at 10 a.m. The Thunder Bay Kings will face the Moose Jaw Warriors in the consolation final at the Kinsmen at 8:15 a.m.

Yorkton UCT Terriers 7
Lumsden/Bethune Lions 4
Zach Zadorozniak scored three goals and had an assist to lead Yorkton to a win in the other semifinal game.

Thunder Bay Kings 6
Regina Stars 2
Kenny Turner scored twice and added an assist in consolation semifinal action.

Moose Jaw Warriors 7
Lorette Comets 1

Bryce Crosbie had two goals and five other players scored goals for Moose Jaw, which won the other consolation semifinal.

Brandon Wheat Kings 3
Thunder Bay Kings 3
Jackson Wallis and Zachary Whitecloud scored third-period goals for the Wheat Kings, while Jaylan Blad made 24 saves.

Lumsden/Bethune Lions 4
Moose Jaw 1
Brodie Schuette scored two goals to lead the Lions.
Yorkton UCT Terriers 9

Regina Stars 2
Drue Allison scored five times and added a helper and Kailum Gervais scored two goals and two assists for the Terriers.

Fort Frances K-of-C 9
Lorette Comets 1
Jordan Larson had five goals and Colton Spicer scored twice for Fort Frances.

BANTAM FEMALE
Thunder Bay Queens 3
Selkirk Fishermen 0

Kylie Cornell scored two goals to lead the Queens over the Fishermen in semifinal action, granting them a berth to the championship final against the Saskatoon Comets at the Kinsmen Arena at 1:45 p.m. The Fishermen meet the Regina Ravens in the bronze final at the Optimist Arena at 1:45 p.m., while the Deloraine Royals meet the Winnipeg Twins in the consolation this morning at the Optimist Arena at 11:45.

Saskatoon Comets 2
Regina Ravens 1

The Comets upended the Ravens in the other semifinal game with Karst Lindsey scoring two goals for Saskatoon.

Winnipeg Twins 4
Brandon Wheat Kings 1
Four different players scored for the Twins as they advanced to the consolation final with a win over Wheat Kings.

Deloraine Royals 2
Winnipeg East Saints 1
The Royals got goals from Marlee Stewart and Morgan Murray in their semifinal win.
» Brandon Sun



Toronto's Nik Antropov celebrates his OT winner. (The Canadian Press)

Antropov leads Leafs

TORONTO — The Toronto Maple Leafs, having won three of their last four games by knocking off teams way ahead of them in the NHL standings in Ottawa, Montreal and Detroit, are once again talking about making the playoffs.

The Leafs, buried in 14th place in the Eastern Conference and 28th overall going into their game against the No. 1 Red Wings on Saturday, emerged with a 3-2 victory when Nik Antropov deflected in an Anton Stralman blast 62 seconds into overtime in the opening game of the CBC's Hockey Day in Canada tripleheader.

"We're still hoping we can make the playoffs," said Antropov. Maple Leafs head coach Paul Maurice wouldn't bite when asked if he felt the playoff coals being stoked by the latest unexpected triumph.

"Take it for what it is fellas," Maurice told assembled scribes. "Some of you will really like the win and some of you will think that it hurts our draft pick."

Darcy Tucker and Mats Sundin scored for Toronto, while Nick Lidstrom struck twice for Detroit. Toronto's Vesa Toskala made 32 saves. Dominik Hasek stopped 22 shots for Detroit.
» The Canadian Press

Silver lining for ACC

WINNIPEG — The Assiniboine Community College Cougars have closed out the season with a silver medal.

The short-staffed Cougars settled for second in the Central Plains Athletic Conference championship, losing the final 3-2 (27-29, 21-25, 25-14, 25-13, 15-13) to Canadian Mennonite University.

"We only had six players for the whole weekend," ACC women's coach Norm Bootsman said. "We just ran

out of steam. A couple of breaks went the other way."

ACC's men's team was also on the volleyball court in the conference's bronze medal game. The Cougars beat CMU 3-0 (25-21, 25-21, 25-22).

Four ACC Cougars made the tournament's all-star teams. League MVP Neil Friesen and Andy Van Buskirk cracked the men's honour roll, while Tawny Dillabough and Brittany Cullen made the women's team.
» Brandon Sun

MJHL

KINGS BLANK NATIVES

The Dauphin Kings continued their dominance of the Neepawa Natives with a second straight Manitoba Junior Hockey league shutout, this time 4-0 on Saturday night.

Elsewhere the OCN Blizzard beat the Beausejour Blades 7-1, Winnipeg Saints won 9-5 over the Winnipeg South Blues and Selkirk scored a 2-1 shootout win over the Winkler Flyers on Hockey Day in Canada.

At Neepawa, Luke Stokotelný of Dauphin scored three times, while former Brandon Wheat King Bryan Kauk assisted three times. Shane Luke of Ste. Rose du Lac also scored. Adrian Rubeniuk earned the shutout.

Neepawa goalie Kent Henry of Ste. Rose du Lac faced 44 shots and made 40 saves.

Blizzard 7 Blades 1

In Beausejour, Brandon's Zeenan Buternowski scored twice and added two assists for OCN. Mitch Olson of Deloraine also assisted an OCN goal while Justin Watters of Brandon scored once. Blades forward Jordan Smith of Dauphin had an assist.

Saints 9 Blues 5

At Winnipeg, Donnie Glennie, brother of Brandon Wheat King Scott Glennie, picked up a goal and assist in a losing cause.

Steelers 2 Flyers 1 (SO)

At Winkler, Don Cherry's appearance didn't heat up the scoring in the nationally-televised MJHL showdown. Winkler's David Kurbatsky scored his 20th goal of the year.
» Brandon Sun

Harding battles to a draw

WINNIPEG — Noel Harding joined the Return of the Champions boxing card Friday night and earned a draw in an exhibition bout.

The Brandon Boxing Club owner battled Walter Favell, a heavyweight junior provincial champ, in an evenly-matched three-round bout that was part of a card that included Canadian champion Andrew Gardiner at the Crescentwood Community Centre.

Scott Neapew of the Brandon club also fought a fellow heavyweight, Brett Gardiner, a national junior silver medalist. Gardiner took the decision after the fight doctor saw swelling in Neapew's eyes and ended the bout after the second round.

Six Brandon boxers are training for a Feb. 23 card to be hosted by the Lonsdale Boxing Club of Regina.

Aside from Harding and Neapew, Andrew Beaudry, Zach Yahiro, Quinton Hunter and Dalton Roussin will seek a shot at getting into the ring.
» Brandon Sun

In Brief

REDSKINS HIRE ZORN

WASHINGTON — After a suspenseful month of exhaustive interviews involving at least 10 candidates, the NFL's Washington Redskins decided their coach would be: none of the above. Instead, it'll be first-timer Jim Zorn taking the mantle from Hall of Famer Joe Gibbs. Two weeks after being hired as the offensive co-ordinator, the former Winnipeg Blue Bombers and Seattle Seahawks quarterback was promoted to head coach Saturday night in a surprise move. The 54-year-old Zorn agreed to a five-year contract.

SHOT FOR SCHILLING

BOSTON — Curt Schilling has received a cortisone shot in his right shoulder, beginning a treatment plan the Boston Red Sox hope will bring the right-hander back before the end of the major league baseball season, The Boston Globe reported. The painkilling shot administered Friday would allow Schilling to begin rehabbing an injured shoulder tendon. The Sox' team doctor believes the tendon is damaged, not torn, and that rehabilitation gives Schilling his best chance to play this year. Schilling's personal physician disagrees.
» The Associated Press

Eagles' Gale, Lewis grab gold

REGINA, Sask. — Peyton Gale heads a list of Brandon Eagles gymnasts who will return home from the Prairie Invitational with a gold medal.

Gale won the Provincial 3 Open category with an overall score of 48.85, earning first-place performances on bars (12.4) and beam (12.6).

Brandon's Ryann Lewis also won a gold medal in the Provincial 5 category, thanks to a first-place finish in floor exercises (13.17), second on bars (12.0) and beam (12.4) and third in vault (12.85).

Brianna Ternowesky of the Eagles earned a silver in the Provincial 4 category after winning the bars event (12.6) and placing third in vault (12.55) and beam (12.633). Brooklyn Ternowesky also earned silver in the Pre-Provincial 2 category, finishing first on bars (12.2), second on the floor (12.067) and third on beam (11.4) and vault (10.55).

Brandon's Alex Empey was fifth in the Provincial 4 category, finishing fourth on vault (12.35).
» Brandon Sun

Bernard helps Raiders trim Clippers

DAUPHIN — The Killarney/Wawanesa Raiders knocked off the Dauphin Clippers 3-1 Saturday in the Westman High School Hockey League.

Landon Bernard scored two goals, while Seth

Cory had a goal and added two assists for the visitors. Matt Wickens responded for Dauphin.

Last night's other scheduled game, featuring Neepawa at Souris, was postponed.
» Brandon Sun