

Mayfield and Hall toppled by St. Martin on way to title

By Jake Courtepatte

A pair of Caledon high schools were the victims of St. Martin Secondary School's road to ROPSSAA hockey supremacy.

The St. Martin Mustangs were up against perennial powerhouse Robert F. Hall in the semifinal match-up last Wednesday at the Hershey Centre, looking to hand the Wolfpack their first divisional loss in three years.

Despite reigning as the top-two teams in Senior Boys' DII standings, both Hall and St. Martin narrowly escaped their quarter-final match-ups, each getting through on one-goal games.

With the score deadlocked at one after the first period, Hall put on the pressure in the second, when they looked as if they were on a constant powerplay.

However, a couple bad bounces, hit posts and nice saves meant a scoreless period and a tired offensive unit.

The third period was a nail-biter, as the Mustangs took the lead early on with a nice end-to-end rush, beating two Hall defensemen and the goalie for a 2-1 score.

It was the only defensive breakdown of the period for the Wolfpack, who continued their offensive onslaught with shot after shot at the Mustang net. They would finally capitalize with the goaltender pulled and only 20 seconds left on the clock, the bench going wild after a scrum in front of the net ended with the puck behind the goaltender.

The overtime period was end-to-end action, with both teams receiving their fair share of chances, but being continuously denied by the strong goaltending that controlled the entire game.

But luck was not on the Wolfpack's side, as a poor bounce on a rebound left a Mustangs player with a wide open net to seal the game for St. Martin.

The Wolfpack were back-to-back ROPSSAA champions.

In the other bracket, the Mayfield Mavericks had proven their worth after dropping down from the DI division the year before, blanking Philip Pocock Secondary School 6-0 to book their ticket to the championship game.

There they met the surging Mustangs, with the two facing off at the Brampton Memorial Arena Monday.

Despite a flurry of shots of their own, strong goaltending was once again the factor, as the Mustang net minder held the Mavericks to just two goals in a 3-2 win to claim ROPSSAA gold.

The season isn't over just yet for the Hall Wolfpack, who are headed to the provincial OFSAA tournament next week in Pembroke.

