

Peel Predators get their first taste of gold

In only the second year after starting the Peel Predators Hockey Association, the club saw its 2001/2002 bantam team win its first championship.

The team has 10 players from Caledon, two from Brampton, five from Mississauga-Oakville and one from Milton.

These rep-calibre players would have had to play house league this season if not for the Predators and the Ontario Rep Hockey League, because of their no-boundaries rule. It's great that there is a league out there that doesn't worry about where players live to allow them to play rep level hockey.

The team started the season off rough, as anyone would expect from a new team with members who had never played together.

They made their first break through in December at the London tournament by winning the silver medal. All the coaching staff on the team realized then that the potential was there to succeed even higher.

The team practised hard for six weeks, learning the system the coaches were trying to implement. It all paid off during a recent weekend in Burlington, with the team going undefeated the whole tournament.

It started Friday with a 6-2 victory over the Simcoe County Kings.

The second game Friday night was against London, and the team dominated the game with a 9-3 win.

Saturday afternoon would be one of the most important games, as three teams were 2-0 and three other teams were 0-2. The team with the best record after three games would get a bye to the finals.

The Predators would have to play the Barrie Slingshots, who also were 2-0.

Predators came out on top, with a 6-1 victory, thus earning them the bye to the finals.

It would be Sunday morning when the Preds would have to play the second seed team Cambridge Renegades.

They jumped off to an early 1-0 lead, and five minutes later went ahead 2-0.

At the end of the game, the Predators were on top 4-0 over Cambridge to give the Peel Predators its first championship trophy.

Everyone on the team had a chance to hoist the mini Stanley Cup and it was a joy to watch.

This is what minor hockey is all about.



The Peel Predators' bantam team consists of (front row) Aiden Langlois, Douglas McCabe, (second row) Shaun Sabatini, Ethan Batch, Ethan Muszynski, (third row) Coach Al Murphy, Coach Bill O'Neil, Colin Campbell, Tyler Marinko, Cameron O'Neil, David Karavas, Aaron Patton, Emmanuel Pereira, Michael Anthony Ancona, Brian Eichinger, Landen Dube, Coach Frank Eichinger, (back row) Trainer Al Dube, Noah Hughes, Darren Singer, Lance Lusterio and Taylor Murphy. Photo by Manager Audrey Murphy