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## Minor bantam Knights go to Detroit

*Submitted on behalf of the NobleKing Knights minor bantam hockey team.*

Oct. 16 saw the NobleKing minor bantam Knights face Innisfil on their home ice in Stroud.

The first period was scoreless, thanks to some great goaltending by Ben Rossetto who faced many shots from some pretty tough offense from Innisfil.

In the second period, Rossetto stood on his head again and stopped an Innisfil forward in his tracks who had taken off on a breakaway. With three minutes left to play in the second, Innisfil scored to make it 1-0. They scored again in the third to make th final score 2-0.

The following Saturday, the Knights took on the East Gwillimbury Eagles and came away with a win.

After one period of play, there was no score. But early in the second, Knights' forward Thomas Martin buried one past the Eagles' goalie to take the lead. Later in the second, Steven Gianfrancesco scored off a pass from George Stepanis to go ahead by two goals. With 18 seconds left on the clock, the Eagles scored to make it 2-1 going into the third period.

With only a few minutes left on the clock in the third period the Eagles pulled their goalie to put an extra forward on the ice, but a nice pass from Stepanis to Martin resulted in a goal on the Eagles' empty net. Great net minding was provided by John Salome as the Knights won 3-1.

The following day in Barrie, the Knights faced the Colts in one of the best games they have played all season.

Early in the first period, Nick Heintzman scored off a pass from Martin to take an early lead, but the Colts responded with three goals toward the end of the first period to take the lead 3-1.

In the second, the Colts struck again and pulled ahead 4-1, but the Knights responded with a goal by Tyler Burt and then again by Martin to end the second

period 4-3 in favor of the Colts.

Early in the third, Martin scored on a nice backhand while on his knees to tie things up 4-4. The Colts respond with another goal a few minutes later, but their lead would be short-lived as the Knights attacked right back on a rush initiated by Martin, who drop passed the puck to defenceman Robbie Pizzicarola, who scored with a low slap shot to tie things up again.

With three minutes on the clock, the Colts put another goal past the Knights' goaltender to pull ahead 6-5, but just when the Knights thought they were out of it and with only a minute left on the clock, Martin made a beautiful pass to Stepanis on a breakaway and he fired a hard shot high over the shoulder of the Colts' goalie off the crossbar into the net.

Even though the Knights walked away tied 6-6, it was a well-played, hard-hitting, come-from-behind game that was a lot of fun to watch.

Last weekend, the Knights headed to Dearbourne, Michigan, to take part in tournament competition against a few American and Canadian teams.

In their first game, the Knights faced the Livingston Lightning, who took an early lead in the first period. Later that in the same period, Gianfrancesco scored to tie things up, assisted by Matt Peruzza and Burt. One minute later, Michael Noblegreen poke checked a pass to Marco Mussatto, who scored on the resulting breakaway to end the first period 2-1 in favor of the Knights.

In the second, Stepanis scored off a nice pass from Heintzman, but the Lightning responded with another goal a few minutes later and the period ended 3-2.

In the third period, with only a minute left to play, defenceman Robbie Pizzicarola skated the puck out of the Knights' defensive zone, past most of the Livingston players, and

just as he was ready to take a shot, he passed across to hard-charging forward Burt who one timed it past the Livingston goalie that ended the game 4-2 in favor of the Knights. Ben Rossetto was solid in net and picked up another win to add to his impressive record.

The following morning, in the second game, the Knights were faced with a loss at the hands of Trenton by a score of 3-1. The lone goal for the Knights came from Martin, assisted by Stepanis and Mussatto.

In their third match Saturday afternoon, the Knights took on Tecumseth, the other Canadian team who had crossed the boarder to play in this tournament. Despite a hard-played game by the Knights, they come up short and took another loss by a score of 4-2.

Their first goal was scored by Martin, assisted by Pizzicarola, and the other goal came from Burt, assisted by Gianfrancesco.

The Knights were eliminated from the championship game Sunday due to goals for and against, even though they had tied for second place. Despite the loss all players and family had a great time in the U.S. and look forward to regular season play this week.



Brendan Farrugia was looking for one of his Wild mates to center the puck to during the third period of Saturday's game against the Temiscaming Royals

## Temiscaming was too much for the Wild

**By Bill Rea**

The Temiscaming Royals have spent much of the season at the top of the Greater Metro Junior A standings, and they devoted much of Saturday night demonstrating why that is to the King Wild.

The home side was able to keep up with their foes in most departments, but not on the score board. The Royals prevailed 5-0.

They were only up by a pair of goals at the end of the second period, with the two sides even at 26 shots on goal apiece, but the Temiscaming crew went to

work in the third, adding three more markers and posting 18 shots to seven.

"They're a very good team," Wild Head Coach Paul Hampton observed at the end, "but we didn't come to play."

He added several of the players he relies on to score are spending too much time in the penalty box. He stressed the need to get goals against a team like Temiscaming to get them off their game plan.

He also had some harsh words for the officiating, calling it "ridiculously terrible."

At one point in the third period, a Royals player was knocked down. The referee figured he had to call a penalty, but left it up to the coach who got the gate.

"They're making it as they go along," he charged.

The Wild will be paying a call on the Deseronto Storm Saturday. The puck will drop at 7:30 p.m. Then they'll be in Bradford Sunday night to face the Rattlers, starting at 7:30 p.m.

They are also going to be in action Tuesday night, visiting the Richmond Hill Rams, starting at 7:30 p.m.

## Hard days continue for Cougars

**By Bill Rea**

It was hard to come up with positive things to say about the Schomberg Cougars' last game Thursday night.

Their power play was working. It was a definite weakness a couple of weeks ago, but all four of the Cougars' goals Thursday came while they had the man advantage. The problem was the Alliston Hornets scored 14 goals in response.

The side was holding its own in the first period, but troubles started in the second. They drew a series of penalties early in the frame, and the extended

power play resulted in the Hornets' sixth goal, and that seemed to rev the visitors. They added five more markers before the next buzzer, eventually outshooting the Cougars 73-20.

"It's really hard to get out of a slump like this," commented Head Coach Gary Waldrum after the game. "If you don't believe, you can't turn it around."

He acknowledged the power play is one of the things they've been working on in practice. There are other factors that need attention, but he said a shortage of sponsorship means it's hard to obtain ice

time.

In an effort to shake things up a bit, the team introduced Kettleby resident Aaron Morning midway through the match for a stint between the pipes. He's been playing goal for the Schomberg midget rep Red Wings, and despite the harsh introduction to the junior C world, he was happy to be in the ranks.

He pointed out the periods are longer than what he's used to. "You get lots of ice time, lots of shots," he observed.

He also believes his new mates have lots of talent, and they're just having trouble throwing it all

together.

Waldrum added they plan to welcome Matt Steenhoek back to the line-up. He was a big help to the cause last season.

There is going to be plenty of action this week to help him get back in the groove.

The action resumes tomorrow (Thursday) night when the Cougars will host the Midland Flyers. The game will begin at 8:15 p.m.

Saturday will see them travelling north to Stayner for an 8:30 match against the Siskins. Then they'll be paying a call on the Fergus Devils Sunday night. That match will start at 7:30 p.m.