

Whitehorse battles to silver medal in Richmond

By ECHO ROSS
Star Sports Editor

A team of Yukon pee wee hockey players, combined from each of the five pee wee Whitehorse Minor Hockey Association house league squads, recently travelled to Richmond, British Columbia to compete in the annual pee wee "C" tournament, for the Western Canadian championships.

Eight pee wee teams from several areas of B.C. and the Yukon competed in this tourney and in the end, Whitehorse skated away with the silver medals. Not bad for a team which was thrown together quickly after learning of an opening at the Richmond tournament in January.

"It was put together on really short notice," said Bud Arnold, one of the coaches for the team. "We told the first 17 players in house league who wanted to go, whoever pays will travel. It was not hand-picked by any means."

With the Canada Winter Games happening in Whitehorse over the past few weeks, the majority of the players hadn't skated for about three or four weeks. As well, the players were from five different house league teams, and some of them hadn't played together at all.

"We had no idea how we would do," said Arnold.

The team used the Yellow Cab sponsored house league jerseys, and went under the name Whitehorse Yellow Cab. Arnold said everyone played every game to the best of their ability, and the overall result proved the hard work had paid off.

"They played great together as a team. I'm very pleased, very proud of them all."

The first of the four round-robin matches saw Yellow Cab take on the Kamloops Venom. After a slow start, Whitehorse was down 2-1 near the end of the second period, when they scored five unanswered goals for a 6-



Photo submitted

ROAD TRIP – Seventeen Whitehorse pee wee hockey players recently travelled to a house league tournament in Richmond, B.C., where they won silver.

2 victory. Player of the game was Shawn Roberts with a pair of goals.

Game two had Yellow Cab against the Kamloops Nailers. Whitehorse fell behind 2-0 and 4-2, before they scored four goals in the last six minutes of the third period, to pull out a 6-5 win. Goaltender James McGrath made several key saves in the last two minutes to preserve the victory.

Player of the game was Mike Arnold, who scored two goals and added an assist.

Their third contest saw a superb effort against a team from Whistler, as Whitehorse led right from the start, rolling to an 8-0 victory. Goaltender Mike Amirault recorded the shutout, with player of the game honors going to Rory Gibson, who collected a goal and an assist.

The fourth and final game of the round-robin would determine the final four playoff teams, and Yellow Cab was up against a local Richmond team. This was another tight battle, with the Whitehorse team narrowly defeating Richmond 4-3. Player of the game was Kalin Slough, who potted a goal and an assist.

Sporting a 4-0 record after the round-robin, Whitehorse was guaranteed a spot in the semifinals, where they would face the Vancouver Vikings.

After a scoreless first period with great goaltending on both sides, Whitehorse took advantage of a power play to open the scoring.

The turning point of the game was

when Vancouver, on a two-man advantage late in the second period, gave up a breakaway, short-handed goal to Mike Arnold, who made it 4-1.

The final score was 5-1 for Yellow Cab, which earned them a birth in the gold medal game. The player of the game for the semifinal was Sadie Whitelaw, with an assist and some excellent defensive work.

Whitehorse then faced off against a team from Saanich, B.C. for the gold medal on Tuesday. Saanich opened up an early 1-0 lead, and after a scoreless second period, they took a 2-0 lead early in the third.

The Yellow Cab players dug down a little deeper, and Mike Arnold went

on an end-to-end rush through the entire Saanich team, putting in a backhander off the crossbar to cut the lead to 2-1 with just eight minutes left in the game.

With six minutes remaining, Grame Close circled around the opposition net and centered to Shawn Roberts for a nice slapshot, tying the game 2-2. The score remained 2-2 at the end of regulation and a five-minute overtime session solved nothing, so the teams went to a five-on-five shootout.

Two of the Saanich players were able to find the back of the net while the lone shootout goal for Whitehorse was scored by Colin Kabanak. Both goaltenders played great during the entire game and the shootout.

Satisfied with their second-place finish, the Whitehorse team showed great sportsmanship and celebrated as if they had won. As tough as it is to lose in a shootout, everyone was very pleased with the effort.

The entire team would like to thank manager Trine Aird for organizing the trip, as well as the coaches – Bud Arnold, Brian Slough, Frank Close, and Ernie Jamieson – for the work they did.

Also, thanks to the many sponsors who helped make it happen, and to the Whitehorse Minor Hockey Association. Finally, thanks to the parents, fans and supporters who cheered and supported the team to its great success.

The players who won silver in Richmond are as follows:

Forwards: Scott Hunston, Cody Lessard, Spencer Jamieson, Sadie Whitelaw, Riley Hildebrand, Colin Kabanak, Mike Arnold, Sameen Bhullar and Rory Gibson.

Defence: Gage Preece, Gage Aird, Graeme Close, Lynsey Keaton, Kalin Slough and Shawn Roberts.

Goaltenders: Mike Amirault and James McGrath.

High Country passes Pizza Hut for third

By ECHO ROSS
Star Sports Editor

High Country Inn was the top team in Tuesday Night Squash League action this week, collecting 20 points and jumping past Pizza Hut into third place in the overall standings with a total of 239.

Pizza Hut took home just 10 points for a total of 234 and now sits fourth. Assante Financial continues to hold a big lead on first overall, recording 15 points this week for a total of 271. Rounding out the top four is Kilrich, which claimed 14 points for a total of 241.

Yukon Brewing Company grabbed 15 points for a total of 201, which is good enough for fifth spot in the standings. Underhill picked up 16 points for a total of 191 while Ketz had the bye this week and remains in the basement with a total of 169 points.

Winning their matches for the Inn were Patrick Gardiner, Jim Gilpin and Blaine Tessier. Gardiner needed five games to beat Pizza Hut's George Stetkiewicz while Gilpin fought Jean-Francois Roldan, who was filling in for Richard Meredith, for five before emerging with the victory. Tessier swept Kyle Marchuk in three games.

Trevor Goerty, who was subbing for Eric Magnuson, won the lone match for

Pizza Hut, downing Matt Brown in four games.

Michael Hanson and Mark Tubman were victorious for Assante. Hanson ousted Kilrich's Lori Muir in four games while Tubman whipped Dan Thomson in three straight.

Chris Toleman and Shaun Kitchen replied for Kilrich. Toleman took care of Jeff Brown, who was playing for Pierre LaCasse, in three straight games while Kitchen, who was filling in for Vince Boutelier, prevailed over Trevor

Mead-Robins in a tough, five-game match.

Shaun Stinson and Robert McMynn collected the big points for Underhill. Stinson needed five games to defeat Yukon Brewing's Janet Lee, who was subbing for Don Murphy, while McMynn sent Kevin Daffe home in three.

Jeff Seaman and Grayson Peters replied for the brew crew. Seaman downed Jane Bell in four games while Peters beat Marc Emond in four.

Pakistan players to leave Jamaica

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Police investigating the murder of Pakistani cricket coach Bob Woolmer sought permission Friday to take DNA samples from players, and were not ruling out the killer being someone he knew.

"It is true that anybody who is required to give a witness statement in this incident we are seeking their permission to get fingerprints and DNA samples," to help eliminate suspects, Jamaican police deputy commissioner Mark Shields said.

Medical tests confirmed Woolmer was strangled and, because there was no forced entry or signs of struggle at

the scene, police think the coach knew his killer.

Speculation that illegal gamblers had it in for Woolmer escalated after Pakistan team spokesman Pervez Jamil Mir said the coach had been "disturbed" that pages of his book had gone missing.

Pakistani players and officials were among people fingerprinted and interviewed by police at a Kingston hotel on Thursday before the squad travelled to Montego Bay.

Mir said the Pakistani players were shocked by the news Woolmer had been killed.



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