

## SPORTS —

# Lincs win Game 7, advance to conference semi-finals

Lincolns battle back from early 1-0 deficit to defeat Vipers 4-1 Sunday in LaSalle



Lincs' hard-working centre Joe Mazur sets up in front of Vipers' goalie Matt Sbrocca during Game 6 last Friday night at the PRC. Lincs lost a hard-fought, physical battle 2-1 in overtime. It left the two teams deadlocked at three games apiece in their Western Conference quarter-final playoff series. (Payton photo)



Lincolns' winger Noah VandenBrink gets a great scoring chance during second-period action last Tuesday night at the PRC. With just over two minutes remaining in regulation time, VandenBrink fired the winner on a powerplay—lifting Lincs to a thrilling 2-1 victory and a 3-1 quarter-final series lead. (Payton photo)

By Pat Payton

LASALLE - St. Marys Lincolns were an outstanding road team all season, posting one of the best away records (15-9) in the entire GOJHL.

Here Sunday afternoon in front of an estimated 700 spectators, Lincs proved their prowess on the road once again in Game 7 of their Western Conference quarter-final playoff series. A 4-1 victory over the hometown Vipers secured a berth for Lincolns in the semi-finals against the first-place Leamington Flyers. The best-of-seven series begins Thursday in Leamington, with Game 2 Friday in St. Marys.

"We felt we deserved the win today," coach Jeff Bradley said from the team bus Sunday. "It was nice to earn something you work hard for. I know the series went seven games, but our team defence is certainly the reason we're moving on."

"We know we're a resilient team. We had to play with our backs against the wall today, and I think that was an advantage for us. We're a big, strong, hungry team and today guys had the end of their (Junior) careers staring them in the face. Veterans like Thomas (Harbour) Joe (Mazur) Spencer (Hazell), Kobe (Ferreira), Max (Mulder), Eric (Lalonde) and Myles (Baker) all stepped up today. All those 20-year-olds played as well as they could have played in order for their season not to end."

The other conference semi-final se-

ries will feature the second-place London Nationals playing the third-place Chatham Maroons.

## Lincolns 4 - Vipers 1

On Sunday, Lincolns won for the third time in the series at the Vollmer Rec. Complex. And without a doubt, it was their biggest victory of the 2021-22 season to date.

"In the pre-game meeting, we talked about not letting their goalie (Matt Sbrocca) dictate the way we play our game," coach Bradley said. "I think we only gave up 18 shots today. Our defence and team defence did a really fantastic job."

Vipers' forward Lee Knight opened the scoring at 15:47 of the first period.

Lincs picked up the pace in the second period, and carried the play to the home team early. With Lincolns down 1-0, goalie Bryce Walcarius stopped a breakaway to keep his team within striking distance. Finally, with less than a second left in the middle frame, Lincs' defenceman Ethan Coups scored his first goal of the season to tie it 1-1.

Lincolns carried that momentum into the third, and Thomas Harbour put the visitors ahead 2-1 just 37 seconds into the period. It would stand up as the winner.

"We had about 18 minutes to lock the win down," Bradley added. "The guys did a great job blocking shots, and Wally (Walcarius) held the fort back

there for us."

St. Marys' fans began celebrating when Joe Mazur hit the empty LaSalle net with 2:06 remaining. Spencer Hazell added another empty-netter with just 19 seconds left on the clock.

Walcarius recorded his fourth win of the series as Lincs finished with a 27-18 edge in shots.

## Vipers 2 - Lincolns 1 (Overtime)

At the PRC Friday night, Lincolns out-shot the Vipers 24-6 in the third period and overtime, but it was LaSalle which skated off with an emotional victory—tying the series at three games apiece.

Jack Greenwell cashed in a rebound at 5:58 of OT, giving the scrappy Vipers a wild 2-1 win in front of an Easter Friday crowd estimated at 750 spectators. It was a playoff game where the players had to fight for every inch of ice in the hard-hitting, physical battle.

Overall, Lincs out-shot the Vipers 43-28, and deserved a better fate. Simply, Lincolns' biggest road-block in the game and the series was a goalie named Matt Sbrocca, who finished with 42 saves Friday.

"It's frustrating," coach Bradley said. "But when you play that well, and come up short, there's no sense hanging your head. The boys did everything that we asked, but we couldn't score. In the series, we've only scored eight goals in six games,

and you can't win with that recipe.

"Credit to LaSalle, they're resilient and opportunistic, and they got one when it counted."

In regulation time, the teams traded second-period goals. After LaSalle's Gabe Barrette opened the scoring at the 1:32 mark, Lincs' defenceman Jordan Daer tied it at 12:25.

Lincolns out-shot the Vipers 13-3 in the third, and 11-3 in the short-lived overtime, but couldn't solve Sbrocca. Early in OT, the visitors took a high-sticking penalty, and Lincs had several chances on the powerplay. But just under two minutes later, Greenwell ended Lincolns' hopes of finishing the series on home ice.

Looking ahead, coach Bradley was asked what Lincs had to do to win Game 7 Sunday in LaSalle. "We have to score some goals, and bring the same effort as tonight," he quickly replied. "We hope we get rewarded; the guys deserve better."

## Vipers 4 - Lincolns 1

In Game 5 last Thursday at the Vollmer Rec. Complex, the desperate Vipers defeated the Lincolns for the first time on home ice all season.

A 4-1 victory kept Vipers' season alive, and cut Lincs' series lead to 3-2. In five previous meetings in LaSalle (including three in the regular season), Lincolns had won them all by a single goal.

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## SPORTS —

# GOJHL NOTEBOOK - Lincs draw first-place Leamington in semi-finals

## Spots still open for Lincolns' Spring Camp, Apr. 29-May 1 at PRC

By Pat Payton

St. Marys Lincolns will open a best-of-seven Western Conference semi-final series against the first-place Leamington Flyers this Thursday in Leamington at 7:10 p.m. Game 2 is Friday at the PRC at 7:30 p.m.

Game 3 is Sunday in Leamington at 2:10 p.m., with Game 4 back in St. Marys at 7:30 p.m.

Second-place London Nationals are playing the third-place Chatham Maroons in the other conference semi-final, likely beginning Wednesday in London.

—Lincs made seven long trips to LaSalle this season (including the regular schedule) and came home with six victories.

—Lincolns' penalty-killing units were outstanding in the LaSalle series. Vipers went 0-for-31 on the powerplay in the seven-game quarter-final.

—Due to a lower-body injury, Lincs' leading scorer Ethan Lamoureux was unable to play the final two games of the LaSalle series. St. Marys is obvi-

ously hoping to have the 19-year-old Ilderton native back for the semi-finals.

—In the first six games of their quarter-final series with the Vipers, Lincolns scored a total of just eight goals. After the 2-1 overtime loss last Friday night at home, assistant coach Nathan Perrott was asked what Lincs had to do to generate more offence.

"We played well tonight; the effort was there, but LaSalle's goalie stopped a lot of pucks," Perrott said. "We just have to get more traffic in front of Sbrocca; he's a good goalie. We have to keep getting pucks to the net, keep driving, and get rebounds. He makes most of the initial saves.

"It's tough to win games when you're not scoring a lot of goals. We've been good defensively because LaSalle has only scored 12 goals (in six games). We just need more offensive production."

—Last Friday, it was announced that forward Kyle Morey is Lincolns' Quadro Communications Player-of-

the-Month for March.

The Kitchener native, who doesn't turn 17 until June, clicked for five goals and 11 points last month. He's a fifth-round draft pick of the OHL's Owen Sound Attack, and averaged almost a point a game during the regular schedule.

—There are still spots available at Lincs' Spring Camp on the weekend of Apr. 29, Apr. 30 and May 1 at the PRC.

As of last week, just under 60 prospects had signed up for the three-day camp, which will consist of a series of intra-squad games. Players are guaranteed three games, a team info session, lunch and a team shirt.

Lincolns' GM Greg Smale says he's hoping for enough players to ice four teams that weekend. Contact Assistant GM Mike Glover at: MGlover@Lincs.ca., with date of birth, height, weight, position and current team. E-transfer \$150 to club treasurer Stew Grant at: Stewartgrant16@gmail.com, using password "Lincolns".

—A couple of other important dates on Lincs' calendar are: the team's Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Monday, May 9 at the Royal Canadian Legion, and Lincolns' Golf Day on Friday, June 10 at St. Marys Golf and Country Club.

—Former Lincs' scoring leader Alesio Luciani (2016-17) recently helped Adrian College in Michigan capture the NCAA Division 3 men's hockey title in Lake Placid, N.Y.

Luciani and the Bulldogs defeated SUNY Geneseo, of New York State, 5-2 in the championship game. It's the first national title in school history. They were the top-ranked team (31-1) going into the tournament after putting together a 30-game winning streak.

Luciani, 23, and a Junior from Woodbridge, led Adrian in scoring this season with 17 goals and 48 points in 30 games. He was also a plus 40.

After his one season in St. Marys, Luciani finished his Junior career in the OJHL with the Markham Royals.

# Lincolns, Vipers quarter-final series goes the limit

Continued from page 10

Vipers out-shot the Lincs 15-10 in a scoreless first period, and carried that momentum over to the middle frame. Second-period goals by Jack Greenwell and defenceman Spencer Lecot gave LaSalle a 2-0 lead, and it proved to be enough of a cushion on this night.

Ethan Lamoureux scored a big goal for the Lincolns just 38 seconds into the third to close the gap to 2-1. But it was the only puck they would get past Sbrocca. Brody Gillis restored a two-goal advantage for Vipers at 12:53, and Stephane Crevier tacked on an empty-netter with 2:24 left on the clock.

LaSalle was the better team on this night, out-shooting St. Marys 32-23. Coach Bradley pulled no punches when he talked about his team's performance.

"It was not pretty," he said bluntly. "The guys forgot the game started at 7 o'clock. We played a terrible first period and didn't have much jump at all. The effort just wasn't there tonight.

"The credit goes to LaSalle. They played like a desperate team that didn't want their season to end. We

played like we were thinking about having the weekend off."

### Lincolns 2 - Vipers 1

At the PRC last Tuesday night, the home-ice jinx in the series and season was finally broken.

After the visitors had won all nine games between the two teams, Lincolns used two powerplays goals in the third period to pull out a hard-fought and come-from-behind 2-1 victory over the Vipers. The win gave Lincs a commanding 3-1 series lead.

Trailing 1-0 after 40 minutes, the St. Marys powerplay finally clicked in the third—ending the Vipers' 2021-22 spell at the PRC.

With Lincolns holding a 5-on-3 man advantage, Kieran Moore tied the score at 2:49 of the third from Ethan Lamoureux and Spencer Hazell. Only an incredible pad save by Walcarius—with just under eight minutes remaining—kept the contest deadlocked.

At that point, it appeared the game was heading to overtime. However, with 2:38 left on the clock, LaSalle took a cross-checking penalty and Noah VandenBrink fired the winner 32 seconds later. Lamoureux and Kyle Morey drew assists.

"We were battling on the powerplay and their goalie (Sbrocca) was making some good saves, but we were due for one," VandenBrink said. "I was in the right place at the right time. The puck bounced out and I didn't make a mistake.

"It was a huge team win, from Wally (Walcarius) all the way up. He was amazing again."

Vipers' Jake Eaton opened the scoring at 5:55 of the first period from a

scramble. The slim lead lasted for almost 37 minutes.

"In the third period, it was really nice to see our powerplay start to click," coach Bradley said. "We moved the puck quick tonight and guys got open. We were desperate and I think it showed in the final period."

Overall, LaSalle out-shot St. Marys 36-28, with Walcarius making 35 stops. It was Lincs' third one-goal win of the series.

## Lincolns - Flyers semi-final series playoff dates

(Best-of-seven series)

Thursday, Apr. 21 - St. Marys at Leamington, 7:10 p.m.

Friday, Apr. 22 - Leamington at St. Marys, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, Apr. 24 - St. Marys at Leamington, 2:10 p.m.

Tuesday, Apr. 26 - Leamington at St. Marys, 7:30 p.m.

Thursday, Apr. 28 - St. Marys at Leamington, 7:10 p.m., if nec.

Friday, Apr. 29 - Leamington at St. Marys, 7:30 p.m., if nec.

Sunday, May 1 - St. Marys at Leamington, 2:10 p.m., if nec.

**SPORTS —**

# Five division winners crowned in NBC tournament

Twenty teams compete in St. Marys minor hockey fundraiser on Easter weekend

By Pat Payton

Twenty teams, 35 games over two days, and five division winners.

After a two-year absence due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the annual Al Kennedy Memorial No-Body Contact hockey tournament was a huge success this past Easter Weekend at the PRC. The popular fundraising event for the St. Marys Minor Hockey Association dates back to 1985, and has proven to be a great family event for decades now.

This year, the divisions were: McPhail, Skipper, Martin, Schiedel and McLennan – all named after SMMHA Life Members. All teams played three round-robin games, and the five finals (between the two teams with the best records) were played Saturday afternoon.

The five champions were: Lamplighters (McPhail), Canucks (Skipper), C.O.C. (Martin), OV Knights (Schiedel), and Gunners (McLennan).

**McPhail final**

The Lamplighters (2-1) and the Mighty Drunks (2-0-1) renewed acquaintances in the McPhail Division final. The teams had played in the morning, with the Mighty Drunks winning 3-2.

In the final, however, Lamplighters showed a little offensive firepower as they skated to a deserving 4-2 victory.

Justin Delgado sparked the Lamplighters' attack with a goal and three assists, while the other singles came off the sticks of Colton Drinkwalter, Tyler Clark and Kody Tremblay. Cal Horvat didn't get on the scoresheet, but had a strong game for the Lamplighters. The winning goalie was Andy O'Connell, who made the big stops when called upon.

Brent Rae and Alex Bridgewater replied for the Mighty Drunks.

**Skipper final**

In the Skipper Division final, four second-half goals powered the Canucks to a 5-1 decision over Billy Bobs, a Mitchell-based team. There were no scoring stats available from that game. The Canucks were stocked with several St. Marys minor hockey products, including Hunter Bodenham who posted the net win.

Canucks had earned a spot in the final with a 2-0-1 record. One of their preliminary wins was a 3-1 victory over Billy Bobs on Friday. Billy Bobs managed to squeak into the division final with a 1-1-1 round-robin record. The Smoke also had a 1-1-1 record, but were edged out on a tie-breaker.



Two on none! Ben Douglas (19) scores on a breakaway for the Tsunami during their round-robin game against Embro on Friday. Following up the play is teammate Troy Carter (27). Twenty teams competed in minor hockey's NBC tournament this past weekend. (Payton photo)

**Martin final**

In the Martin Division, C.O.C. (2-1) and Cock A Dangle Doos (1-0-2) met in Saturday's championship final. The two teams had played a round-robin game earlier in the day and Cock A Dangle Doos secured a spot in the final with a 3-2 victory.

In the championship game, C.O.C. emerged with a 4-3 victory on goals by Jeff Masselis, Chad George, Scott Jamieson and Mark Jennings, with the winner. Former Lincolns' goalie Adam McLean was the winning netminder.

Josh Becker, Matt Holliday and Craig Postamus scored for the Dangle Doos. Postamus scored with 40 seconds remaining and their goalie pulled for a sixth attacker.

**Schiedel final**

In the Schiedel Division final, the OV Knights (2-0-1) faced the Brews (2-1).

The teams traded first-half goals, with Michael Plain scoring for the Brews and Mike Hedberg for the OV Knights.

The score was still deadlocked 1-1 at the end of regulation time, and five minutes of overtime solved nothing. A shootout was then needed to break the tie. It took seven shooters from both teams before a winner was declared. Kevin Armstrong fired the sudden-death winner for the Knights, giving his team a 2-1 victory.

Earlier in the day, the OV Knights had blanked the Brews 4-0 in round-robin play.

**McLennan final**

In the McLennan Division, Embro (2-

1) and the Gunners (2-1) squared off in the final. Gunners claimed a spot in the championship game with a 5-3 win over the Tsunami just a couple of hours earlier. The final goal was into an empty net.

In the second half, goals by Craig Wheeler (powerplay), Matheson (on a breakaway), and Rian Crisp (empty net) gave the Gunners a 4-1 victory. Wheeler's goal came with just over seven minutes to play and stood up as the winner.

**Fantastic weekend**

Rich Ballantyne did a great job as tourney convener, with help from Dale Switzer, as they kept the games running smoothly and on time all weekend. Ballantyne was very pleased with the 2022 version of the tournament.

"I think we had a fantastic weekend," Ballantyne said late Saturday afternoon. "We had tremendous support from our volunteers in St. Marys minor hockey. We had 20 teams, and to my knowledge, everybody can go to work on Monday and nobody's injured."

"It was great seeing people connect for the first time in two years; people who hadn't seen each other. It was pretty heart-warming for me, and I was really glad to be a part of it."

1) and the Gunners (2-1) squared off in the final. Gunners claimed a spot in the championship game with a 5-3 win over the Tsunami just a couple of hours earlier. The final goal was into an empty net.

In the final, Gunners and Embro were

## 2022 NBC tournament scoreboard

**FRIDAY**

- Lamplighters 12 - Whalers 3
- PRC Pandas 2 - Mighty Drunks 2
- Canucks 3 - Billy Bobs 1
- Smoke 2 - Tribe 1
- C.O.C. 4 - LA Batts 1
- Wellburn Weapons 4 - Cock A Dangle Doos 4
- Mighty Drunks 7 - Whalers 0
- Lamplighters 5 - PRC Pandas 0
- Canucks 3 - Smoke 1
- Billy Bobs 4 - Tribe 3
- C.O.C. 3 - Wellburn Weapons 1
- LA Batts 1 - Cock A Dangle Doos 1
- Brews 5 - RHL Alumni 3
- OV Knights 3 - Chiefs 1
- Embro 5 - Tsunami 2
- Riverdogz 3 - Gunners 2
- OV Knights 2 - RHL Alumni 2
- Brews 2 - Chiefs 0
- Tsunami 3 - Riverdogz 2
- Gunners 4 - Embro 2

**SATURDAY**

- Mighty Drunks 3 - Lamplighters 2
- PRC Pandas 15 - Whalers 3
- Billy Bobs 3 - Smoke 3
- Canucks 3 - Tribe 3
- Wellburn Weapons 7 - LA Batts 1
- Cock A Dangle Doos 3 - C.O.C. 2
- McPhail Division final**
- Lamplighters 4 - Mighty Drunks 2
- Skipper Division final**
- Canucks 5 - Billy Bobs 1
- OV Knights 4 - Brews 0
- RHL Alumni 5 - Chiefs 4
- Embro 7 - Riverdogz 2
- Gunners 5 - Tsunami 3
- Martin Division final**
- C.O.C. 4 - Cock A Dangle Doos 3
- Schiedel Division final**
- Brews - OV Knights 2 - Brews 1 (Shootout)
- McLennan Division final**
- Gunners 4 - Embro 1



## SPORTS —

# Baseball Hall of Fame celebrates Jackie Robinson Day

With artifacts display at the Rogers Centre last Friday

TORONTO - The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum commemorated the 75th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's Major League debut with a display at Rogers Centre on Jackie Robinson Day.

Last Friday, April 15, fans attending the Blue Jays-A's game had an opportunity to view an exhibit of artifacts assembled by the Hall that shines the spotlight on Robinson, as well as prominent Black Canadian players and teams. The display was located in the 100 level concourse area.

"We are proud to participate in Jackie Robinson Day at the Rogers Centre," said Jeremy Diamond, chair of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and Museum's board of directors. "The fact that this is the 75th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's major league debut makes it even more meaningful. We are excited to share our artifacts to help tell Jackie's story, as well as the rich history of Black players and teams in our country."

Prior to breaking Major League Baseball's colour barrier in 1947, Robinson starred at second base for the Montreal Royals, a Brooklyn Dodgers' Triple-A International League affiliate, in 1946. Playing his home games in a city with a reputation for racial tolerance provided Robinson with relative tranquility for half the schedule.

On the field, Robinson excelled, leading the International League in batting average, walks and runs, and his performance helped propel the Royals to their first Junior World Series title.

Robinson's tenure in Montreal is part of a long and rich history of Black players and teams in Canada



The Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame commemorated the 75th anniversary of Jackie Robinson's Major League debut with an artifacts display at Rogers Centre last Friday. (Contributed)

that dates back to at least 1869 when the Lincoln Nine played on the diamonds of London, Ont.

#### Some of the CBHFM artifacts

Some of the Canadian Baseball Hall of Fame and

Museum artifacts that were on display at the Rogers Centre on Jackie Robinson Day included:

--Toronto Blue Jays No. 42 base used at Exhibition Stadium in the mid-to-late 1980s to honour Robinson.

--Montreal Expos No. 42 base used on the last Jackie Robinson Day in Montreal in 2004.

--One of the Chatham Coloured All-Stars tribute jerseys worn by the Toronto Blue Jays during a game in 2001

--One of the Boston Royal Giants tribute jerseys worn by the Red Sox when they played the Blue Jays in 2002.

--Replica Montreal Royals jersey.

--Louisville Slugger Jackie Robinson replica bat with JR4 carved into knob of the bat.

--Brooklyn Dodgers 1956 National League champions bat, featuring Jackie Robinson, Roy Campanella and Don Newcombe.

--Commemorative pin that highlights the Black Heritage USA 20-cent stamp that was issued August 2, 1982

--Upper Deck Jackie Robinson baseball cards. This is a nine-card set that offers highlights from Robinson's career, including breaking the colour barrier, his MVP season and his Hall of Fame induction.

--Inductee cards of trailblazing 2021 Canadian Baseball Hall of Famers Jimmy Claxton, William Galloway, Fred Thomas and Manny McIntyre.

## Lariviere newest Adult Black Belt at Stonetown Karate

By Pat Payton

Nine current members of the Stonetown Karate Centre have Adult Black Belt status.

The newest member of the group is 18-year-old Justin Lariviere, of St. Marys. He started practicing martial arts in 2014.

"Justin started his Black Belt journey eight years ago with Stonetown Karate," Sensei Jeremy Lorentz told the Independent. "He's been a dedicated student, training four days a week for much of his time, showing up to class on time, staying focused and showing respect to all instructors.

"Justin continues to be a student focused on perfection of all skills and sharing his knowledge with other students. Justin is engaged in every class, never giving up a moment to partner with Sensei to learn more, questioning techniques, and striving to learn and do better."

Over the years while working towards Black Belt, Lariviere has participated in karate tournaments, seminars and class instruction from youngsters to adult classes. Especially in the last year, he has taken on more leadership roles at the Centre.

"Always willing to try new classes, Justin has taken the initiative to participate in our Kama and Bo staff classes for extra training," Lorentz points out. "With Justin's attention to detail,

he has been a great mentor to other students, helping them to improve.

"We are looking forward to Justin's continued training/learning as he works towards his 2nd degree Black Belt. It has been an absolute pleasure having Justin in our Stonetown Karate family," the Sensei added.

#### Rewarding to reach milestone

Lariviere used the word "rewarding" when describing what it feels like to reach this milestone. He was asked why martial arts appeals to him.

"It's really a handful of reasons," he replied. "One of the primary ones is I like the feeling of being empowered and enjoy the feeling of being able to do things myself. I know I am more than capable of defending myself if a situation arises."

He also likes the fitness aspect of martial arts. "It helps me maintain a state of physical well-being," he says. "It also gives me a sense of superiority."

Justin isn't the only member of his family practicing martial arts at SKC. Brother Joshua, 13, and sister Isabelle, 16, are both currently Brown Belts.

Parents are Denis and Jenn Lariviere, of St. Marys.



Justin Lariviere, right, recently reached Adult Black Belt status at the Stonetown Karate Centre. The 18-year-old St. Marys resident, who has practiced martial arts since 2014, poses for a photo with SKC Sensei Jeremy Lorentz. (Payton photo)



# SPORTS —

## Twenty teams compete in NBC tourney on weekend



Members of the Lamplighters, including Tyler Clark foreground, follow the action in the McPhail Division final Saturday afternoon. Lamplighters doubled the Mighty Drunks 4-2 to claim the division title. After a two-year absence because of Covid, the St. Marys minor hockey fundraiser was a huge success this past Easter weekend. (Payton photo)

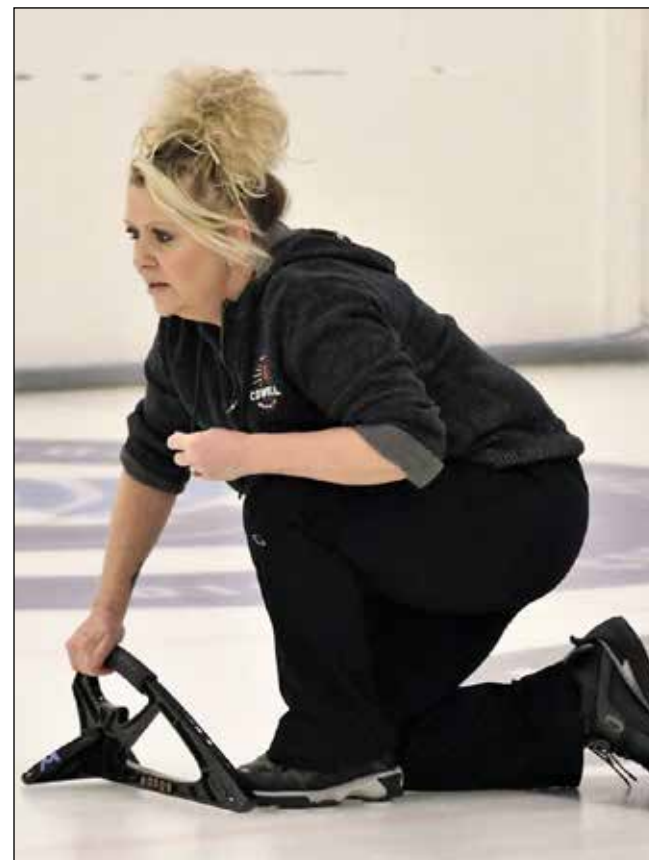


Matt Holliday scores for Cock A Dangle Doos during the Martin Division final on Saturday afternoon. However, it wasn't quite enough as C.O.C. hung on for a 4-3 victory. Twenty teams competed in five divisions in the annual Al Kennedy Memorial No-Body Contact hockey tournament at the PRC. (Payton photo)

## Continental Cup final 2022 event at St. Marys Curling Club



Decisions, decisions. Skip Chris Campbell and vice Pat Murray, right, discuss their next shot during the recent two-day Continental Cup at the St. Marys Curling Club. Six teams competed in the Tim Hortons-sponsored event. (Payton photo)



Marjie Westerveld intently follows her shot during the Continental Cup. The two-day bonspiel was the final event at the St. Marys Curling Club this season. (Payton photo)

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## SPORTS —

# New Lincs' coach wants to instill systems, structure

Jeff Bradley was on the bench for three Western Conference titles with London

By Pat Payton

Systems and structure . . . all over the ice.

That's what new head coach Jeff Bradley wants to instill big time in the St. Marys Lincolns.

"Luckily, I had a great mentor in (former London Nationals' coach) Pat Powers," Bradley said in an interview with the Independent last week. "Pat believed in structure, on and off the ice, and systems and being organized and keeping a schedule.

"It's just about bringing some consistency and some structure to this team."

Bradley, 34, was behind the bench for his first two games with the Lincs this past weekend. He replaces Trent McClement, who was relieved of his duties on Nov. 7. Bradley was on the Nationals' bench for 12 or 13 games this season, before accepting the St. Marys job.

## Priority number one

What is priority number one with the Lincolns, he was asked before conducting his first practice with the team last Tuesday.

"Systems," the Port Stanley resident quickly replied. "My definition of systems is having a plan all over the ice. We have to establish what we're going to do in the defensive zone, our neutral-zone forecheck, our set face-offs, and our offensive zone. In addition to that, all the special team stuff, forecheck, the regroup, absolutely everything.



Jeff Bradley

"I was taught one way in London, by Pat and other assistant coaches like Adam McKee, that this is the way we should play hockey. It seemed to work there, and I'm going to bring that to St. Marys as much as I can."

## Five seasons under Powers

Bradley spent five full calendar seasons with Powers in London (including the Covid year last season when no league games were played). He was on the bench for three of Nationals' four consecutive Western Conference playoff titles. Bradley coached the defencemen for part of his tenure in London.

The new Lincs' coach says he will definitely bring some of Powers' hockey philosophies to St. Marys.

"Pat was so instrumental in my desire to get better as a coach," he said. "When I got to the Nationals, I was coming from a Jr. 'C' and Jr. 'D' background. I learned from Pat for five years, and I still talk to him on a weekly basis and I've talked to him about how I should prepare for this (Lincolns') job.

"Pat was always so prepared; he had a plan for everything. He was so instrumental in my development as a coach, so I take a lot from him. He not only taught me more about hockey, but it got my interest level up and to seek information on my own. I've got a bunch of really good people that I've tried to surround myself with who have a ton of hockey knowledge. I'm able to call on those people whenever I need something."

While being a coach with the Nationals, Bradley saw a positive "change" happening two years ago with the Lincs.

"Not only this year, but two years ago, I really saw a change with the competitiveness of this St. Marys team," he said. "In my first couple of seasons in London, they weren't anywhere near the top of the standings. Then all of a sudden, they're in third place in the league (in 2019-20).

"They're a team that works hard, and the young guys want to get better. I've met with the leadership group here in St. Marys, and they're all on board with everything I said. They're hungry to learn, and we have a GM in Greg (Smale) who seeks out hockey players to play for this team. He wants to see this team perform to its

fullest on the ice."

## Super excited about opportunity

Bradley says he's looking forward to working with the team's Director of Hockey Operations.

"I want to work for Greg, and he's shown tremendous belief in me. He's got me excited to be a head coach, especially for St. Marys. I know the Lincolns have a rich history. I know I'm not going to a bad team here, I'm going to a really good team that thinks they're underachieving at the moment. We've got a fresh start at 0-0 right now, and we want to head upwards."

Bradley was asked to put a number from one to 10 on the excitement level he feels about coaching the St. Marys Lincolns.

"It would be 12," he quickly replied with a laugh. "I'm super excited. I've been ready to be a head coach for a couple of years, but I didn't want to leave London. We had such a great thing going on there.

"I loved the people who were around there, but this opportunity was just too good to turn down. Greg believes in me, and I believe in Greg, and we believe in the team. I'm extremely excited."

Smale describes Bradley as a communicator and teacher.

"I think the structure, and the Xs and Os, the passion, the video, there's so many intangibles that Jeff brings that will be a positive influence upon our group," the GM said. "It's a change of philosophy and a fresh start.

"I think everyone is breathing a little bit easier, and looking forward to a different perspective."

## Jeff Bradley bio . . .

--Born in Montreal, Bradley has lived in Port Stanley since 1994.

--Played Jr. 'D' hockey for five seasons in Port Stanley and Mt. Brydges.

--When he finished playing Junior, he began coaching minor hockey in Port Stanley.

--Seven years ago, Bradley joined Randy Campbell's staff as an assistant coach with the Lucan Jr. 'C' Irish. He was then named head coach of the Port Stanley Lakers. But before he coached even one game, he got a call from Pat Powers and joined the London Nationals as

an assistant coach.

--Bradley, 34, spent five full calendar seasons with Powers in London (including the Covid year last season when no league games were played). He was on the bench for three of Nationals' four consecutive Western Conference playoff titles.

--Bradley also scouts the GOJHL for the Western Mustangs men's university hockey team.

--His full-time job is a sales rep. for a company based in Montreal, and his territory is all over southern Ontario.

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## SPORTS —

# Lincolns win, lose in Bradley's debut as head coach

Linco have three games in busy four-day stretch this week



Linco's game stars celebrate. Kobe Ferreira, left, fired the shootout winner and goalie Bryce Walcarius was selected Player-of-the-Game last Friday night as Lincolns skated to a thrilling 4-3 shootout victory over the first-place London Nationals. (Payton photo)

Group effort. Lincolns' captain Max Mulder (55), Eric Lalonde (71), Eric Smith (17) and Kieran Moore help goalie Bryce Walcarius keep the puck out of the St. Marys net last Friday night at the PRC. Linco emerged with a thrilling 4-3 shootout victory over the first-place Nationals. Kobe Ferreira fired the game winner. Lincolns host Chatham Maroons this Friday at 7:30 p.m. (Payton photo)

By Pat Payton

KOMOKA - St. Marys Lincolns and new head coach Jeff Bradley had to settle for just one win this past weekend, but they were very close to gaining four points against two of the top teams in the GOJHL's Western Conference. Just minutes away as a matter of fact.

After pulling out a thrilling 4-3 shootout win over London Nationals on home ice Friday, Lincolns were stung by two late goals here Saturday night and dropped a 6-5 decision to the red-hot Kings. It was Komoka's sixth straight victory.

"The winning goal happened so fast; we didn't have time to catch our breath after their powerplay goal," coach Bradley reported. "We tried to teach patience to the players tonight. I'll watch video and we'll address things at (Sunday's) practice."

"We have a few bad habits that we have to get out of our game. As a coaching staff, we're trying to overhaul the way we play as a team. We've been playing the cream of the crop in our conference and there's a learning curve there, but there's been no real time to breathe for our guys."

After weekend action, St. Marys (8-8) remains in sixth place with 16 points.

London leads the pack with a 12-3-0-1 record. One point behind is

Leamington Flyers (12-4-0-0) and two points back is Komoka (11-6-1-0). Kings' winning streak came to an end Sunday when they lost 6-1 to the Maroons in Chatham. Maroons have moved into sole possession of fourth place with a 9-5-1-2 record.

## Kings 6 - Lincolns 5

At Komoka Saturday evening, Lincolns battled back from 2-0 and 4-2 deficits to take a 5-4 lead with just under eight minutes to play.

However, Kings rallied for the win with two goals -- just six seconds apart -- with less than two minutes left on the clock. Matthew Gough tied it 5-5 on a powerplay at 18:05, and Carter McIlwain scored the go-ahead goal just six seconds after that when Linc coughed up the puck in their own zone.

"It was kind of a fluke goal," Bradley said. "Again, it's just some bad habits that we have to clean up. Komoka's goals were pretty well all mistakes. And we gave up a couple of break-aways."

"When you make mistakes, these good teams and high-end players will capitalize, and we learned that the hard way tonight."

Kings' Colin Holmes scored the only goal of the first period, shorthanded. Kaeden Johnston put the home team up 2-0 on a powerplay, just 56 seconds

into the middle frame. Lincolns' Noah VandenBrink (his eighth) narrowed the margin to 2-1 at the 4:02 mark.

After Ethan Lamoureux (his sixth) tied it on a powerplay at 16:35, Johnston put Komoka back in front just 16 seconds later.

Alex MacLeod put the Kings ahead 4-2 at 4:44 of the third, but Austin Keleher pulled Linc to within a goal again just 28 seconds later. Newcomer Ryan Cooper set up Joe Mazur for the tying goal with just over eight minutes to play. Eric Smith then gave Lincolns their first lead of the night, 5-4, just 35 seconds after the Mazur goal.

Overall, Komoka out-shot St. Marys 47-28. Goalie Bryce Walcarius (5-4) went the distance for the visitors, and VandenBrink and Lamoureux both picked up two points.

## Lincolns 4 - Nationals 3 (Shootout)

At the PRC last Friday night, the much-anticipated Lincolns-Nationals' game had almost a playoff-like atmosphere to it. And with good reasons.

Head coach Jeff Bradley was making his debut with the Linc and it happened to be against his former team. Assistant coach Ryan Shipley was on the London bench, also coaching his

first game with his new team. Shipley left the Lincolns the previous weekend, unhappy that St. Marys had released Trent McClement as its bench boss.

The game didn't disappoint as Linc let 2-0 and 3-1 leads slip away, but emerged with the shootout victory in a wild and entertaining affair. The fans certainly got their money's worth as Lincolns played one of their best games on home ice to date.

Kobe Ferreira fired the shootout winner, and goalie Bryce Walcarius stopped three of four London shooters to earn Player-of-the-Game honours. Walcarius is a former National.

The win stopped a two-game losing skid for the Linc, and it was also their first win over the Nationals this season. The Nats, meanwhile, came into the game tied for first place after winning four of their last five.

Goals by Joe Mazur and defenceman Thomas Munro (powerplay) staked St. Marys to a 2-0 first-period lead. The fired-up Linc out-shot the visitors 17-8 in the opening 20 minutes.

After Lincolns had a goal disallowed 27 seconds into the second period (high stick), London got a favourable bounce and Jack Bunker closed the gap to 2-1 midway through the frame.

Noah VandenBrink restored a two-

Continued on page 12



## SPORTS —

# VandenBrink Lincolns' Player-of-the-Month for October

## McClement accepts coaching job with Listowel Cyclones of the Midwestern Conference

By Pat Payton

Rookie forward Noah VandenBrink was named St. Marys Lincolns' Player-of-the-Month for October at last Friday night's home game against London Nationals.

The award is sponsored by Quadro Communications, and was presented by Lincs' vice-president Bill Lowe.

The 16-year-old VandenBrink, who hails from Belmont and possesses a great set of hands, collected six goals and 11 points last month. He also made his OHL debut with Hamilton Bulldogs as well, the team that drafted him in the fifth round earlier this year.

After weekend action, VandenBrink continues to lead St. Marys in scoring with eight goals and 17 points. Veteran Ethan Lamoureux (6-10-16) is second in points. Both players have played 15 games.

--Lincolns had a new forward in their line-up Saturday night in Komoka. He's Ryan Cooper, who actually scored the lone shootout goal for London Nationals in their 4-3 loss the previous night in St. Marys. It was apparently a cash deal.

The 17-year-old Ilderton resident was a member of the U16 Huron-Perth 'AAA' Lakers in 2019-20. He's a Saginaw Spirit OHL draft pick.

--New head coach Jeff Bradley said playing his former team in his Lincs'



Noah VandenBrink

debut last Friday night didn't add any extra pressure.

"No, I'm part of the St. Marys Lincolns and I'm very happy to be here," Bradley said following the exciting shootout win over London. "The Nationals were tremendous to me for five years. I'm not looking at my past or any personal connection, it's just about getting this (St. Marys) team better and climbing up the standings a little bit."

--The Independent reached out to

Trent McClement last week, giving him an opportunity to comment on the recent turn of events. The Palmerston native was released as Lincolns' head coach Nov. 7 after four seasons at the helm.

"At the end of the day, it definitely was shocking," McClement said. "On a personal note, I came here and helped build this. I live in this town, and feel so much part of this team. It's sad getting let go from an organization that you put so much time and commitment into. The organization felt like a family to me."

"There were a lot of good times with the Lincolns, too. I was the first coach to win a playoff series in 10 years, and we won Coach-of-the-Year two years ago (2019-20). We even went to a Prospects Game and coached a team called Team McClement."

"Even this year, I honestly thought we would eventually begin peaking and we'd be tough to play against in the playoffs," he added.

--The Independent learned this past weekend that McClement is joining Listowel Cyclones of the GOJHL's Midwestern Conference. His first practice with his new team was Tuesday of this week. Jesse Cole, of Stratford, is the Cyclones' head coach.

"I decided to go and help them this year," McClement told the newspaper. "Listowel has a really young team and they want to develop these

kids as much as they can. It's a decent fit for me."

--It didn't take Ryan Shipley long to find another hockey job. After leaving the Lincs Nov. 7, apparently upset that St. Marys had released Trent McClement, Shipley is a new assistant coach with London Nationals.

The Ilderton resident played for the Nats in 2013-14. He was behind the Nats' bench last Friday night in St. Marys.

--During their stop at the PRC last Friday, Nationals' head coach Colin Martin was asked about the coaching changes in St. Marys and London.

"Jeff Bradley is a great guy," Martin said. "He's a good coach, and the Lincolns are really going to enjoy him here. He's a hard-working guy. We got the same in Ryan Shipley. I've known Ryan for a couple of years now and he's a good guy."

"At the end of the day, they're both hockey guys who want to win hockey games. The moral of the story is, we're going to miss Brads (Bradley), but we're happy to have Ship (Shipley)."

--Myles Baker is getting close to returning to the Lincolns' line-up. The 20-year-old defenceman was injured during a game Oct. 20 in LaSalle (a deep gash on his forearm by a skate). Baker could possibly make his return as early as this weekend.

# Lincs pull out thrilling shootout win over Nationals

Continued from page 11

goal edge for the Lincs at 16:02, but Michael Elliston kept the Nationals within striking distance when he connected just 48 seconds later.

The Nats carried the play to St. Marys early in the third, and it paid off when GOJHL points leader Zach Power tied it 3-3 at the 5:28 mark.

In the seven-minute, 3-on-3 overtime period, both sides had a couple of good chances with lots of open ice, but the goalies shut the door.

**Ferreira fires SO winner**

In the eight-player shootout, Lincs' Kieran Moore and Nationals' Ryan

Cooper both scored early goals. After four straight misses, Ferreria netted the go-ahead goal and then Walcarius stopped Lucas Chard to end it. The St. Marys players poured off the bench to mob their goaltender after he made the final save.

"We start off playing the one, two and three seeds in this league, and getting two points tonight is great," Bradley said after the emotional win. "We tried to overhaul the systems and the structure, but we only had two practices this week to do it."

"The difference for us was being extremely responsible in the offensive zone. We had a high forward at all

times, which allowed our defence to be aggressive on the walls. All the credit tonight goes to the players."

Bradley was encouraged by what he saw in his first game with the Lincolns.

"This team is very smart," he said. "Being in the league for five years, every time you played St. Marys, you got a tough game; they're aggressive and they care about their team. They were really using their heads tonight, and that's a great sign for the future."

"It's a huge win for this team, and I'm really happy for the guys."

**Notes:**

--Lincolns' penalty-killing was very strong Friday night as Nationals went 0-for-5 with the man advantage.

--Lincs' forwards Kobe Ferreira and Kyle Morey both earned two assists against London in regulation time.

--Lincolns have a busy stretch this week with three games in a four-day span. They travel to Leamington Thursday, host Chatham Friday at 7:30 p.m. and then play the Stars for the first time this season Sunday in St. Thomas.

Next Wednesday, Nov. 24, Lincs make the long trip to LaSalle to meet the Vipers.

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## SPORTS —

# Juniors edge Warriors 27-26 in H-P hoops nail-biter

DCVI girls basketball teams involved in semi-final playoff games this Wednesday



Niko Taylor, of the DCVI Jr. Salukis, heads towards the Warriors' basket and scores two of her team-high eight points last Wednesday afternoon at St. Mikes. Salukis hung on for a thrilling one-point victory and finished second overall in the H-P standings. (Payton photo)



Helena Lennon-Archer, of the Jr. Salukis, drives past a Warriors' defender (23) during Huron-Perth basketball action last Wednesday at St. Mikes. Looking on in the background as DCVI coaches Tim O'Connor, left, and Gregg Blackler. A late three-point basket by Rebecca Stevens gave Salukis a tight 27-26 victory over the Warriors. (Payton photo)

By Pat Payton

STRATFORD - It started out as a run-away, and ended up being a nail-biter.

Here last Wednesday, the DCVI Junior girls basketball team hung on for a very close 27-26 Huron-Perth League victory over the St. Michael Warriors.

The win improved the Jr. Salukis' second-place record to 3-1, while St. Mikes slipped to 2-2 and third place.

It was all St. Marys in the opening half. Tim O'Connor's squad held a slim 4-2 advantage after the first quarter, but scored all 10 points in the second period on their way to building what appeared to be a commanding 14-2 lead by the half-time break.

However, the home-court Warriors refused to go quietly and the Salukis' huge lead quickly evaporated. St. Mikes scored the first nine points of the third quarter and trailed just 18-15 going into the final eight minutes.

The fourth quarter featured back and forth action, and it appeared it might come down to last basket wins. Early in the period, Warriors went in front 19-18, but it would prove to be their only lead of the afternoon.

## Winning three-point bucket

A couple of key baskets by Niko Taylor twice gave DCVI three-point leads, 22-19 and 24-21. After St. Mikes closed the gap to 24-23, Rebecca Stevens nailed a huge three-point bucket to put St. Marys up 27-23. It was the fourth consecutive game that Stevens has hit a three-pointer.

Trailing 27-25, Warriors were awarded two free throws with 1:03 remaining to play. The shooter made just one basket, and Salukis were then able to run out the clock.

Taylor paced a balanced DCVI scoring attack with eight points. Seven players got on the scoresheet. Stevens added five points--all in the second half--while Jayden Ansley and Spanish International student Candela Vila Cilleros contributed four points apiece. Vila Cilleros also led the team in assists.

Other DCVI standouts included Eden Sinnett, Charlee Pickering and Helena Lennon-Archer.

"It was a great high school basketball game," St. Marys assistant coach Gregg Blackler was overheard saying following the contest.

A St. Mikes coach for many years, O'Connor was breathing a sigh of relief following the game.

"I think St. Mikes gets credit for playing better in the second half," he said. "They made some adjustments and picked up their defensive energy and forced us to make a lot of bad shots."

"In the first half, we took better care of the ball. We were more patient offensively, and made one or two extra passes which got us in good positions to score."

O'Connor noted that his team needs to up their level of intensity when opposing teams pick up the tempo.

"Right now, we're struggling dealing with a little bit of resilience," he admitted. "That's been a thing all season for us. When the other team picks it up, we're not quite responding to the level we need to."

"We have a good group of kids; they really work hard. They come to practice and they're very coachable, but they have to get their intensity level up another notch."

Salukis and Warriors were scheduled to have a rematch this week. The semi-final playoff game is slated for DCVI this Wednesday, Nov. 17, at 3 p.m.

**Senior girls lose to tough Warriors**  
In the Senior girls game last Wednes-

day at St. Mikes, Salukis lost 58-26 to a "tough opponent" in the Warriors.

"Salukis managed to score 26 even though we were up against strong defence and tall post players," the coaching staff reported. "Salukis made them work hard for every basket, and we come away from this loss as a stronger team who moves the ball well and can score from anywhere on the court."

Anna Ropp led St. Marys with eight points, while Madison Leslie and Japanese International student Honoka Terai each had four.

The DCVI Senior girls, who finish with a 2-3 record, will play the 3-2 Blue Devils in a H-P semi-final playoff game this Wednesday, Nov. 17 in Mitchell at 3 p.m.

## Strong road game at St. Anne's

In a Junior girls hoops game on Nov. 3 at Clinton St. Anne's, Salukis found their rhythm, played strong defensively, took care of the ball and pulled away in the fourth quarter for a 37-23 league victory over the Eagles.

Good shooting from DCVI's Rebecca Stevens and Abbey Taylor complimented the intense defensive play by Abbey Martin and Eden Sinnett. All players worked hard in securing the road win, the coaches noted.



# SPORTS —

## Powerplay clicks for Cement U18 team in win over Oilers

Team heading to Regional Silver Stick tournament on Nov. 26-28 weekend

By Pat Payton

Three powerplay goals, including the game winner, sparked the Cement U18 'BB' boys team to a hard-fought 5-4 Shamrock League victory over the Petrolia Oilers last Thursday night at the PRC.

It was a typical St. Marys-Petrolia minor hockey game -- scrappy, fast, physical and neither side wanting to give an inch.

After Rock winger Kaleb Schalk opened the scoring midway through the first period on a powerplay, Oilers tied it just 45 seconds later.

Goalie Nic Kiestra kept the contest deadlocked with a huge stop in the opening minute of the second period. Defenceman Ben Turner put the Cement men ahead 2-1 at 6:34, but Petrolia pulled even again just under three minutes later.

Schalk put St. Marys ahead 3-2 at the 10:45 mark, converting a perfect pass from centre Kirk Boreham on a 2-on-1 break. Maurice Kiestra then boosted the Rock's lead to 4-2, on a powerplay, with just 1:56 left before the intermission flood.

Trailing by two goals going into the final 15 minutes, Oilers tied it before the third was four minutes old. The visitors' fourth goal was a powerplay tally.

The game winner came at 5:56 on another St. Marys powerplay. Turner's shot from the point got through traffic and found the back of the Petrolia net. Boreham collected his fourth assist of the night on the goal. Oilers pulled their goalie for a sixth



Kaleb Schalk (8) and his Cement U18 teammates head to the bench after the Rock winger opened the scoring against Petrolia Oilers last Thursday night at the PRC. St. Marys won the Shamrock League game 5-4, with Schalk scoring twice. (Payton photo)

attacker with 28 seconds remaining, but didn't threaten.

It was a costly SHL win for the Rock as three players were injured over the course of the night. Hopefully, they'll all be back in time for the Regional Silver Stick tournament in Pelham on the Nov. 26-28 weekend.

### 3-2-1 record in Shamrock

In six Shamrock League games to date, the Cement U18 team is 3-2-1 in the Tier 1 standings. With last Thursday's loss, Petrolia watched its record slip to 2-3-2.

### Good speed, size and work ethic

Rae says his 2021-22 squad has good speed and size and has a strong work ethic.

"We have a lot of guys who just work hard and that's kind of been our motto. In a couple of league games that we're lost, we took a shift off or a period off. But for the most part, and what we saw in tryouts, it's just a team that puts their nose down and doesn't quit.

"We're not a team full of high-end guys; it's more a full team effort and we're strong in our own end. We're also good at passing the puck, something we really stress and work on. The guys are buying into it and that always helps."

The head coach was also asked where his team needs improvement early in this season.

"Right now, I think where we're not scoring goals is right in front of the other team's net. We need to be strong in front of their net, and even in front of our net. Sometimes we lose those battles and give the other team those second and third chances in front of our net. We have to work on getting those second and third chances in front of their net.

"It's definitely a couple of areas we need to work on . . . scoring goals and preventing goals."

**Upcoming:** The U18 Cement men hit the road for a game Friday, Nov. 19 against the Lakers in Wallaceburg, then host the Belmont Rangers on Nov. 25 at 8:30 p.m.

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## SPORTS —

# Four shutout wins power Cement U18 team to title

## Rock captures recent Bobby Orr Hall of Fame tournament in Parry Sound

By Pat Payton

PARRY SOUND - Four consecutive shutout victories powered the Cement U18 'BB' boys hockey team to a tournament championship here on the Nov. 5-7 weekend.

The event was called the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame U18 tournament. All games were played at the Bobby Orr Community Centre.

The Rock lost their opening game, 2-1, to Prince Edward County Kings from the Kingston area on the Friday night. "I think it was more about road legs, but we out-played them," coach Brent Rae reported.

The Cement men got on their roll Saturday morning with a 2-0 win over the Penetang Flames, followed by a 9-0 drubbing of the Essa Eagles in the afternoon. Essa is a township southwest of Barrie.

In the semi-finals on Sunday morning, the Rock again defeated Penetang 2-0 to punch their ticket to the tourney final that afternoon. In the championship game, St. Marys blanked the host team, the Parry Sound Shamrocks, 4-0.

Rock goalies Will Galloway and Nic Kiestra both recorded two shutouts.

**Team represented SMMHA well**



The Cement U18 'BB' boys hockey team and their coaches celebrate with the championship banner after winning the Bobby Orr Hall of Fame tournament in Parry Sound recently. After losing their opening game, the Rock charged back with four consecutive shutout victories to claim the title. Overall, Brent Rae's squad out-scored their opponents 18-2 on the Nov. 5-7 weekend. (Contributed)

"I think the biggest thing we took away from the tournament is the four shutouts," coach Rae said. "It's pretty crazy; I don't think I've ever been part of a team that's done that."

"The other thing was all the refs, the tournament convener and the arena

staff said how good our kids were. It's something to be proud of when they're representing St. Marys."

Allowing just two goals against all weekend was the result of a team effort defensively, Rae said. "But the goalies played well, too; they were

making the saves when they needed to."

**Tourney notebook:**

--In their five tournament games in Parry Sound, the U18 Rock out-scored their opponents 18-2.

--The remainder of the coaching staff consists of assistant coaches Dillon Drinkwalter and Colton Drinkwalter, and trainers Fraser Urquhart and Kevin Bilyea.

--Brent Rae and company will be competing in their Regional Silver Stick tournament in Pelham on the Nov. 26-28 weekend. "It looks like there will be some good teams there," the coach noted. "I don't think Hespeler has lost a game. We have five games between now and then, so hopefully we'll have a good run and peak for that weekend."

--The U15 A-E boys team, meanwhile, finished second at the Bob Tansley Memorial tournament in Tillsonburg, Nov. 5-7. The team is sponsored by Frayne Custom Cabinets.

Gord Cookson's squad won their first three games, then defeated Collingwood 2-1 in overtime in the semi-finals. Sam Johnson fired the winner in OT. The Rock lost 4-1 to Saugeen Shores in the final.

# Linton powers U16 'A' squad to 8-4 ringette victory

## Four goals for strong-skating forward; Hawkes plays well in net

By Pat Payton

Four goals from Cortney Linton and solid goaltending by Parker Hawkes sparked the U16 'A' squad to an 8-4 victory over Oshawa in Great Lakes Ringette League action Saturday afternoon at the PRC.

It was the first league home game for St. Marys.

Snipers jumped out to a 3-0 lead before the game was just over six minutes old. Linton, with two, and Emily Deighton were the marksmen.

After goalie Parker Hawkes stopped a breakaway, Oshawa finally got on the scoreboard at the 8:25 mark. However, just 13 seconds later, Payton Blight restored a three-goal St. Marys cushion.

An Oshawa player got in behind the Snipers' defence and made it 4-2 at the 9:48 mark. Deighton completed the first-half scoring at 12:31 with her second of the contest.

Twenty-five seconds into the sec-



Avery Jennings (15), of the U16 'A' team, takes the ring towards the Oshawa net during a Great Lakes Ringette League game Saturday afternoon at the PRC. Snipers built a 5-2 half-time lead and went on to down the visitors 8-4. Goalie Parker Hawkes played well for the home team. (Payton photo)

ond half, Isla Unich increased the St. Marys lead to 6-2 with a shorthand-

ed tally. Less than two minutes later, Linton made it 7-2. Just over a min-

ute later, Oshawa connected.

Midway through the period, Linton put the Snipers up 8-3. For the strong-skating forward, her fourth of the game came on a powerplay. Hawkes continued her strong play in net, but the visitors managed one more late goal on a powerplay to complete the scoring.

Playmakers for St. Marys were Blight and Avery Jennings, with three assists each, while Kailey McRoberts helped set up two goals.

The U16 'A' team hits the road for a pair of games in the Toronto area this Saturday, Nov. 20.

**Open 'A' result**

In an Open 'A' exhibition ringette game this past Saturday, St. Marys dropped a 6-3 decision to visiting London.

Scoring for the home team were Emily Sage, Shauna Simpson and Mariah Gooding.

London led 5-3 at the halfway mark.