



# ICE TIMES

VOICE OF AMATEUR HOCKEY IN ONTARIO

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11 pages



## NOHA Hosts Inaugural Tournament

The Northern Ontario Hockey Association was proud to host the inaugural House League Tournament of Champions in the Bantam and Midget Divisions this past weekend, March 18-20, 2016.

The House League Tournament of Champions were set up to showcase fun and fair play in hockey, and to allow House League players to showcase their teams for a chance at NOHA Gold.

The Bantam tournament was held in Kapuskasing, Ontario, and the Midget tournament was held in Little Current, Ontario, with a selection of teams from all across the NOHA.

The two trophies were named after two special NOHA members: for Juston Walker, a Midget-age player from Capreol who died tragically in 2010, and Fred Sadowski, a former NOHA President and lifetime member who passed in 2015.



The winners of the Bantam trophy were the Wawa Travellers, and the Midget winners were the Valley East Urban Windows and Doors.

For the 2016-2017 season, Associations who would like to host are asked to apply by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Forms will be available on the NOHA website.

Teams who would like to participate need to send in a Letter of Intent to the NOHA Office by December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016, and a draw will take place in early 2017 to determine which teams will attend. More information about this process is available in the Rules and Regulations on the NOHA website.

The first House League Tournament of Champions were well received, and the NOHA looks forward to continuing to offer experiences and memories for all its members.

[www.noha.on.ca](http://www.noha.on.ca)



**HOCKEY TRAINERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM (HTCP) E-LEARNING COURSES NOW AVAILABLE. THE ONLINE VERSION INCORPORATES THE CONTENT OF THE CURRENT HTCP LEVEL 1 CURRICULUM AND ENABLES THE PARTICIPANT TO COMPLETE THE COURSE AT THEIR OWN PACE.**

VISIT [hdcolearning.com](http://hdcolearning.com)





## EDITOR'S NOTE

The HDCO would like to hear any feedback you have regarding this publication. This newsletter was developed for

the amateur hockey enthusiast in Ontario and we enjoy receiving your comments and suggestions. Please send any remarks to: Hockey Development Centre for Ontario, 19 Waterman Avenue, Suite 215 Toronto, Ontario M4B 1Y2 or email us at [hockey@hdco.on.ca](mailto:hockey@hdco.on.ca)

## Woodstock Just Try It Program!

**W**oodstock, ON - For the second year in a row, the Just Try It! Program, which introduces children and their parents to the game of hockey was held in Woodstock on Wednesday, March 16, 2016. The Just Try It! Program has been designed to ensure that children's first contact with minor hockey is a safe and positive experience.

It's a structured, learn to play hockey program designed to introduce beginners to the game's basic skills. It enables participants to become contributing members of a team effort, develop self-confidence and experience a sense of personal achievement.

In Woodstock, a total of 36 participants came out to try the game. The day started with equipment fitting followed by an on-ice session. All of the participants received a jersey and stick along with a treat bag from Scotiabank. The day was capped off with a pizza lunch. Participants who decide to register for minor hockey for the 2016-17 season will receive their original equipment which will help them get their season and minor hockey careers off to a great start!

A big thanks goes out to all of the volunteers who helped to make the day a success and congratulations to Woodstock Minor Hockey for hosting a wonderful program.



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# ICE TIMES

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**OSHA—Ontario Sledge Hockey Association**

[www.ontariosledge.com](http://www.ontariosledge.com)



**HHOF—Hockey Hall of Fame**

[www.hhof.com](http://www.hhof.com)

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## Online Mentor Forum Launched



**T**he Hockey Development Centre for Ontario (HDCO) is pleased to announce the launch of the HTCP Mentor Support Network. This online interactive forum was created to enhance the e-learning program environment by providing an ongoing support mechanism for our trainers.

With the guidance of 6 experienced and reputable mentors, the online forum provides an opportunity for trainers to post questions in a safe and collaborative environment concerning situations they may be facing as a trainer and to get answers or seek advice for their specific needs and challenges. In addition, participants can browse discussions on various topic areas and articles of current interest.

This program is only available to trainers who have en-

rolled in the HTCP e-learning program.

The objective of this unique program is to offer valuable learning opportunities, mentorship support and guidance through access to a network of qualified and dedicated volunteers.

Participants will have access to:

- ◆ Experienced professionals who have an extensive background and knowledge of safety and risk management in hockey
- ◆ Ask a general question or seek and receive guidance
- ◆ Browse peer-to-peer group discussions
- ◆ Continuous learning through participation and access to the HTCP e-learning centre and mentor support program.

For additional information on the HTCP in Ontario visit the HDCO website. If you are interested in becoming a team trainer and obtaining program certification contact the HDCO or visit [www.hdcolearning.com](http://www.hdcolearning.com)



### *Trainer's Corner*

## DR. TOM PASHBY PROVINCIAL TRAINER OF THE YEAR AWARD



**We are pleased to take this opportunity to congratulate Bob Radojcin recipient of the 2015 Dr. Tom Pashby Provincial Trainer of the Year Award.**

Bob was nominated by the Ontario Minor Hockey Association in recognition of his valuable contribution in advocating the importance of safety awareness and education in minor hockey.

Bob has been a trainer for over 16 years and is the Head Trainer for the Mt. Forest Minor Hockey Association.

He has been instrumental in organizing numerous initiatives including a very successful concussion seminar earlier last season. He was also a member of a 3-person OMHA presentation team that visited five OMHA associations in the 2014-15 season to present a three hour clinic focusing on catastrophic injuries and the use of A.E. D. Units.

As an advanced paramedic and First Aid/C.P.R. Instructor, he has made himself available to teach courses to trainers in other centres in the OMHA/WOAA. His philosophy is that safety lies in knowledge and being educated and trained properly to

react to any situation is key.

The Dr. Tom Pashby award honours those individuals who consistently demonstrate outstanding dedication and service in the areas of safety and risk management as well as a commitment to the values of safety, enjoyment, fair play, education and integrity in the game of hockey through their involvement in the Hockey Trainers Certification Program (HTCP) in the province of Ontario. We are honoured to add Bob to the list of individuals bestowed with this award.



**Bob Radojcin**

Photo courtesy of The Wellington Advertiser

We would also like to acknowledge the following regional recipients nominated by their respective association:

Joe Feeney – Hockey Eastern Ontario  
Lisa Parise – Northern Ontario Hockey Association  
Frank Pietrobono - Greater Toronto Hockey League

## Konnichiwa Japan!

On Saturday, November 14, 2015 the Minor Bantam AAA Waterloo Wolves faced off against the Minor Bantam AAA Kitchener Jr. Rangers in the 2015 Toyota Hockey Challenge. This was the final game following a series of round robin games which also featured the Minor Bantam AAA Cambridge Hawks. On the line for the Champion...an all-expenses paid trip to Japan courtesy of Toyota Motor Manufacturing. The Wolves played to a 3-2 victory and so began their preparations for Japan.

The Wolves departed for the 6-day once-in-a-lifetime adventure on March 9, 2016 to Tomakomai, Hokkaido, Japan. While in Japan, the team was immersed in the local culture and played a game against the Tomakomai All-Stars!

### Waterloo Minor Bantam AAA Itinerary:

March 9 - Arrived in Japan

March 10 - Visited City Hall, a local Shrine, local school, on-ice practice, welcome party

March 11 - Visited TMH, Sightseeing, Exhibition Game

March 12 - Experienced true Japanese culture through

a home visit

March 13 - Played in a Feature Hockey Game, shopping excursion, Farewell Party

March 14 - Departed Hokkaido to Tokyo for sightseeing, Departed for Canada

Our special thanks to Toyota Motor Manufacturing for their generosity and support of this amazing opportunity!



## Sarnia White Captures 2016 Dodge Caravan for Kids Hockey Title

Family Day 2016 will be a special memory for 16 teams from across the OMHA and ALLIANCE Hockey! On Monday, February 15th the annual Dodge Caravan for Kids Family Day tournament was hosted in Brantford and included a ton of on and off ice FUN!

The Dodge Caravan for Kids sponsored Novice HL teams took part in a one-day tournament that included all 16 teams playing 3 round robin games, participating in an exciting on-ice skills challenge, a special lunch and a variety of gifts from Dodge Canada. Following the round robin games, the top team from each of the 4 divisions played in a semi-final match up to determine the two teams to play in the event final.

The first semi-final match up featured the OMHA Grimsby Sharks vs the OMHA Guelph Kings. The game was exciting and in the end, the Grimsby Sharks came out on top with a final score of 10-3. The second semi-final match up featured the ALLI-

ANCE Hockey St. Julia Eagles (St. Catharines CYO) team vs the ALLIANCE Hockey Sarnia White team. The game was a back and forth contest of skill and goals which ended up in a tie after regulation play. Heading into OT, both teams played a great game with the Sarnia White team eventually scoring 2:25 into the Overtime period to take them into the Final game of the day.

The 2016 Dodge Caravan for Kids final game did not disappoint as it was an exciting finish to a great day. The Sarnia White team opened the scoring at the 4-minute mark but the Grimsby Sharks tied the game up quickly with a goal less than a minute later. Grimsby followed up two more goals to take the lead in the first period. Sarnia White answered back with two goals of their own to head into the second period with the score tied 3-3. The second period was just as exciting as the first with a loud and proud crowd! Both teams had a large number of supporters and the feeling in the building was electric! After a few more goals from each side, Sarnia went on to take a 6-5 lead. The teams were evenly matched and played a fantastic last period of hockey with the Sarnia White team eventually capturing the 2016 Dodge Caravan for Kids trophy with a final score of 7-5. Congratulations to both teams on a well-played Championship!





# Woodstock Just Try It Program!

## Continued from Page 2

*"On behalf of my son and myself (and I imagine all parents and participants), I would like to say a very sincere thank you for all of you who volunteered, organized and managed the Just Try It Program.*

*The day was unbelievably organized right from registration to the wrap up. I was completely overwhelmed by the generosity (snacks, equipment, lunch, treat bags) and supportive volunteers. Everyone was so kind, helpful and patient - especially with the younger kids.*

*My son came off the ice so excited, hugged me and said he can't wait to play hockey next year. So I guess the day was a smashing success! A special thank you to Tyler, who was absolutely amazing with my son."*  
Just Try It Parent

## 2016 Midget AAA Telus Cup Central Region Championships

The 2016 Midget AAA Telus Cup Central Regional Championship tournament will be held at the Waterloo Recreation Complex from March 28 - April 3 with the winner advancing to the national Telus Cup tournament in Quispamsis, New Brunswick from April 18-24, 2016. ALLIANCE Hockey will be represented by the League Champion London Jr. Knights and the tournament host Waterloo Wolves. The schedule has been announced as follows:

### Monday March 28, 2016

12:00pm LONDON JR. KNIGHTS (ALLIANCE) vs. NORTH YORK RANGERS (GTHL)  
3:00pm KANATA LASERS (HEO) vs. WHITBY WILDCATS (OMHA)  
6:00pm WATERLOO WOLVES (Host) vs. SUDBURY WOLVES (NOHA)

### Tuesday March 29, 2016

12:00pm NORTH YORK RANGERS (GTHL) vs. SUDBURY WOLVES (NOHA)  
3:00pm WATERLOO WOLVES (Host) vs. KANATA LASERS (HEO)  
6:00pm WHITBY WILDCATS (OMHA) vs. LONDON JR. KNIGHTS (ALLIANCE)

### Wednesday March 30, 2016

12:00pm SUDBURY WOLVES (NOHA) vs. KANATA LASERS (HEO)  
3:00pm WHITBY WILDCATS (OMHA) vs. NORTH YORK

RANGERS (GTHL)  
6:00pm LONDON JR. KNIGHTS (ALLIANCE)  
vs. WATERLOO WOLVES (Host)

### Thursday March 31, 2016

9:00am KANATA LASERS (HEO) vs. LONDON JR. KNIGHTS (ALLIANCE)  
12:00pm SUDBURY WOLVES (NOHA) vs. WHITBY WILDCATS (OMHA)  
3:00pm NORTH YORK RANGERS (GTHL)  
vs. WATERLOO WOLVES (Host)

### Friday April 1, 2016

1:00pm WATERLOO WOLVES (Host) vs. WHITBY WILDCATS (OMHA)  
3:30pm KANATA LASERS (HEO) vs. NORTH YORK RANGERS (GTHL)  
6:00pm LONDON JR. KNIGHTS (ALLIANCE)  
vs. SUDBURY WOLVES (NOHA)

### Saturday April 2, 2016

12:00pm SEMI-FINAL #1 1st PLACE vs. 4th PLACE  
4:00pm SEMI-FINAL #2 2nd PLACE vs. 3rd PLACE

### Sunday April 3, 2016

11:00am BRONZE MEDAL GAME  
2:00pm GOLD MEDAL GAME

### About the Event:

*Since 1974, the best minor hockey teams in the country have gathered to compete for Canada's National Midget Championship; the Telus Cup. Alumni includes names like Sidney Crosby, Patrick Roy, Daniel Brière, Wendel Clark, and Steve Yzerman.*

*League champions from the Northern Ontario Hockey Association, Greater Toronto Hockey League, Minor Hockey London Jr Knights of Ontario, Hockey Eastern Ontario, Ontario Minor Hockey Association meet in Waterloo to compete with the Waterloo Wolves to decide the Central Region champion.*

*The tournament will be held at the Waterloo Recreation Complex from March 28 - April 3 with the winner advancing to the national Telus Cup tournament in Quispamsis, New Brunswick from April 18-24, 2016.*





## Launches Respect in Hockey Video

**T**he Ontario Minor Hockey Association (OMHA) has launched a video series under the 'Respect in Hockey' campaign to re-emphasize the importance of core OMHA values. By committing to fairness, integrity and mutual respect, these standards will continue to be held in the highest regard.



**WATCH NOW**



## The Goalie Issue

**B**eing a goalie is one of the toughest, most pressure-packed positions in all of sports. They have a unique perspective on the game and this edition of Hometown Hockey magazine can help provide some insight on what it takes to be a netminder. While it is titled "The Goalie Issue", there is still relevant content for anybody who laces up their skates.

[READ NOW](#)



## Weekly Podcast Focused on Minor Hockey Now Available for Download

**B**reakaway, The Minor Hockey Podcast has hit the airwaves. The podcast – which is free to download at [OMHA.net/Breakaway](http://OMHA.net/Breakaway), iTunes, Stitcher, PlayerFM or anywhere you consume podcasts – is a weekly program that's engaging and current, with topics of interest and relevance to all minor hockey families.

**LISTEN NOW**





## 2016 OHL Coaches Conference Details Announced

**T**he third annual OHL Coaches Conference is set for Saturday June 4, 2016 at UOIT in Oshawa, ON as the top coaching minds from across the province get together for a time of learning and discussion.

“For the third straight season the OHL is excited to offer a program that brings together coaches from across Ontario,” said Joe Birch, OHL Senior Director of Hockey Development and Special Events. “This is a great opportunity for OHL coaches along with our special guests from the AHL and NHL to share best practices with minor hockey coaches in an interactive professional development day.”

The Minor Hockey Coaches Program will cover several topic areas such as:

- Player Evaluation & Selection (Roger Hunt, General Manager, Oshawa Generals)
- Effective Season & Practice Planning (Bob Jones, Head Coach, Oshawa Generals)
- Goaltender Development in Practices (Rick Wamsley, Ottawa Senators / OHL Goaltending Consultant)
- Face-Off Plays (Steve Spott, Assistant Coach, San Jose Sharks)
- Developing Forwards (Paul McFarland, Head Coach, Kingston Frontenacs)

In Season Training Programs (Mark Fitzgerald, Anaheim Ducks / OHL Nutrition and Training Consultant)

The program will also include a ‘Coaching Pathways’ panel hosted by Sportsnet’s Jeff Marek who will facilitate discussion between Toronto Maple Leafs Assistant Coach DJ Smith, San Jose Barracuda Assistant Coach Ryan Mougenel, and Hamilton Bulldogs Associate Coach Troy Smith.

Registration is now open for the Minor Hockey Coaches Program with space for 90 delegates. The conference is open to any coach registered within the OHF, OHA, OWHA, HEO, or HNO, coaching Pee-Wee ‘AAA’, Minor Bantam and Major Ban-

tam ‘AE to AAA’, Minor Midget and Midget ‘AE to AAA’. Cost of the OHL Coaches Conference is \$200 that includes an OHL welcome gift, all presented materials, and lunch. The one-day program will also provide attending coaches with three certification points towards their Hockey Canada coaching levels.

Interested applicants can complete the online registration for the third annual OHL Coaches Conference at [www.ontariohockeyleague.com/ohl-coaches-conference](http://www.ontariohockeyleague.com/ohl-coaches-conference).

For more information please contact:

Joe Birch

OHL Senior Director of Hockey Development & Special Events

Phone: 416-299-8700 ext. 228

[jbirch@chl.ca](mailto:jbirch@chl.ca)

## Minor Midget Players of the Year Named at OHL Cup Showcase

**S**even players from across Ontario received Player of the Year recognition from their respective minor hockey associations at the 2016 OHL Cup Showcase Tournament Banquet.

Players representing the four Ontario Hockey Federation Member Partners including the ALLIANCE, Greater Toronto Hockey League, Northern Ontario Hockey Association, and both the Ontario Minor Hockey Association’s ETA and SCTA regions, along with Hockey Eastern Ontario, and Hockey Northwestern Ontario were recognized.

Five of the seven award winners competed at the 2016 OHL Cup, including Owen Lalonde of the Windsor Jr. Spitfires named ALLIANCE Player of the Year, Ryan Merkle of the Toronto Jr. Canadiens named GTHL Player of the Year, Quintin Loon-Stewardson of the Thunder Bay Kings named HNO Player of the Year, Damien Giroux of the Sudbury Minor Midget Wolves named NOHA Player of the Year, and Adam McMaster of the Niagara North Stars named OMHA SCTA Player of the Year. Additional award recipients include Paul Larabie of the Nepean Raiders named HEO Player of the Year, and Aidan Dudas of the North Central Predators named OMHA ETA Player of the Year.

*“The Ontario Hockey League is proud to recognize the achievements of these great players,” said Adam Dennis, the OHL’s Director of Recruitment, who presented the awards at Thursday night’s OHL Cup Banquet. “Congratulations to all seven award winners and to their families, coaches, and teammates for a tremendous hockey season, and best of luck to all players as they prepare for the next step in their hockey and academic careers.”* Continued Page 8



## Minor Midget Players of the Year Named at OHL Cup Showcase

Lalonde and Merkley represent the lone defencemen to claim Player of the Year Awards producing more than a point-per-game from the blueline this season leading their clubs in scoring. Lalonde tallied 37 points including 13 goals in 33 games, with Merkley collecting 44 points including seven goals in 33 games. Merkley represented Canada and earned a silver medal at the Youth Olympic Games playing alongside Dudas who scored 51 points including 25 goals in 31 games for the Predators. Other stat lines among the forwards include McMaster who led his club with 53 points including 27 goals in 36 games, Giroux with 36 points and 15 goals in 23 games, Larabie picked up 34 points in 45 games with 15 goals for his Midget AAA club, while Loon-Stewardson led the Kings with 62 points including 32 goals in 55 games.

The awards were presented at the OHL Cup Showcase Tournament Banquet for the sixth straight year recognizing the achievements of the top minor midget aged players from across Ontario. The awards are presented annually to honour the minor midget players who best exemplify outstanding ability and the qualities of sportsmanship and leadership as voted by the minor hockey coaches, managers and organizations of each respective league.



Players of the Year Group Photo—Brian Watts

The 2015-16 Minor Midget Player of the Year Awards were proudly sponsored by Graduor.

## York Simcoe Express win 2016 OHL Cup

The 2016 OHL Cup Showcase Tournament was destined to end in either a three-peat or a trifecta.

Rhys Forhan's goal 7:17 into the second overtime completed the triple crown for the York Simcoe Express, as they added an OHL Cup title to their Silver Stick and OMHA Championships.

Forhan's second of the night came on a turn-around wrister that snuck under the pad of Toronto Marlboros goaltender Elliott Tang, giving the Express a 2-1 victory for their first OHL Cup title since 2004.

"It feels amazing, there's no place I'd rather be," said the night's hero. "Doing it for the boys is amazing and being able to capitalize in front of everyone, there's no feeling like it."

Forhan's winner capped off a furious overtime pace that saw the two clubs swap chances, forcing Tang and OHL Cup MVP Andrei Berezinskiy in goal for York Simcoe into some tough saves.

The Marlboros opened the scoring at 4:31 after Tang turned aside a two-on-one attempt by Cameron Hillis and Richard Whittaker. Blueliner Pierre-Luc Forget took a neutral zone feed from Thomas Tinmouth, crossing the top of the circles before beating Berezinskiy over the shoulder on a shot that trickled over the goal line.

After a scoreless second period, an Express powerplay 7:39 into the third didn't yield any results on the scoreboard, but it did provide them sustained pressure as they wore Toronto down, scoring a shift into even strength play.

A failed Marlboros clearing attempt saw Ian Vucko hold the play at the offensive blueline as he quickly dishd to Robbie Cranston who found a waiting Forhan in the slot. Forhan waited out Tang, tucking the puck past his outstretched pad for his first of the showcase at 10:53 to tie the score at one.

The second straight Championship game to require overtime also marked the first double overtime Championship game in OHL Cup history coming to an end 7:17 into the period when Forhan turned and fired a shot under the pad of Tang to vault the Express onto the ice in celebration. Continued Page 9



Photo—Terry Wilson/OHL Images



## York Simcoe Express win 2016 OHL Cup

"The year we've had, it's been a dream year," said York Simcoe head coach Rob Shilton. "It's hard to even describe what a great experience this has been. There's a number of guys here who have been with our program for six, seven years now and it's so satisfying to see everybody rewarded for their hard work."



Photo—Terry Wilson/OHL Images

The Marlboros outshot the Express 40-32 in the game as Andrei Berezinskiy made 39 saves to earn Player of the Game honours along with the Tim Adams Memorial Trophy awarded to the OHL Cup MVP.

Six players were named to the Gatorade OHL Cup All-Star Team at the conclusion of the Championship game. Those players include Marlies forwards Akil Thomas (7 GP, 6-7-13) and Danil Antropov (7 GP, 7-3-10), Niagara North Stars forward Hunter Holmes (4 GP, 6-3-9), blueliner Justin MacPherson (7 GP, 0-3-3) of the York Simcoe Express and defenceman Declan Chisholm (6 GP, 2-3-5) of the Don Mills Flyers. York Simcoe's Berezinskiy rounded out the selections in goal with a 5-0 record to go with a 2.09 goals-against average.

Hockey Night in Canada star and Minor Hockey advocate Don Cherry presented the OHL Cup alongside OHL Commissioner David Branch and GTHL First Vice President Ken Smith. Monday's Final was played before an energetic crowd at Mattamy Athletic Centre and was also broadcast across the country live on Sportsnet Ontario.

The OHL Cup Showcase Tournament provides fans and scouts one last opportunity to see many of the top minor midget aged players from across Ontario and parts of the United States compete for the OHL Cup performing against the best competition prior to the 2016 OHL Priority Selection.

## Zach Hyman Hockey Playing Author Finds it Nice to Be Home

By David Alter



For Zach Hyman, the pen is truly mightier than the sword.

A proud Ontario Hockey Association (OHA) alumnus, the current American Hockey League (AHL) Toronto Marlies forward has carved a regular role in his first year of hockey at the professional level. Growing up playing four different sports, Hyman also picked up the writing bug. It's become a skill so sharp, he's likely more qualified to write this story than the author is.

"In grade seven, I wrote a book and I won a short story competition," said Hyman.

The short story was the premise behind Hyman's second book titled 'Hockey Hero'. It's about a boy who overcomes playing in the shadow of his more successful older brother and makes it to the National Hockey League (NHL).

Hyman began doing speaking engagements and turned that competition victory into a two-book deal with Random House. His first book titled 'The Bambino and Me' tells the story of a young Yankees fans who grew up idolizing hall of famer Babe Ruth.

Hyman sticks to writing children's books but could one day write an excellent autobiography of his hockey career.

The former Hamilton Red Wing is well decorated in the OHA ranks. He led his former team in scoring in his final year and also served as captain.

With his father Stuart well established in the hockey world, Hyman was exposed to hockey at an early age. "My parents put me into hockey pretty early," said Hyman. "I was skating at age four or five. I started playing hockey right after that."

His brother, Spencer, also played the game before settling in as an Assistant General Manager and coach of the Markham Royals.

Continued Page 10

# Zach Hyman—Hockey Playing Author Finds it Nice to Be Home

**Continued from Page 9**

After a solid second year with the Red Wings, Hyman was selected 123<sup>rd</sup> overall by the Florida Panthers at the 2010 NHL entry draft. He would return for another year with the Red Wings where he amassed 42 goals and 102 points in 43 games. He was recognized by Hockey Canada as the Canadian Junior Hockey League Player of the Year.

With his academics front and centre, Hyman elected to continue his hockey career at the United States collegiate level. He won various awards that ranged from his commitment to strength and conditioning and his grades in school.

In his final year, Hyman registered 22 goals and 54 points in 37 games. He was a Hobey Baker award finalist, a trophy that recognized the best player in Collegiate hockey.

Because many years had passed since he was drafted, the Panthers were about to lose the rights to Hyman. They subsequently traded him to his hometown team, the Toronto Maple Leafs for forward prospect Greg McKegg.

“Being in the organization to one day play for the Leafs was pretty special,” said Hyman “To be here with my friends and family, it’s been a dream come true.”

Hyman, 23, has a unique distinction of being one of the few Marlies players to ever grow up being a new generation Marlies fan.

The Maple Leafs affiliate relocated from St. John’s, Newfoundland, to Toronto in 2005. Hyman was 12 at the time.

“I was a Mats Sundin fan growing up, but I remember when the Marlies moved here I went to a lot of Marlies games,” Hyman recalled. “To end up playing for the team you grew up watching is quite surreal.”

Hyman has jumped all around the Marlies lineup. As has been the case with AHL teams, players are developed to play at various different positions in order to better each player’s development.

“He’s been really good for us,” said Marlies head coach Sheldon Keefe. “He’s a real hard worker and he’s one a bunch of guys who come in here with a positive attitude every single day. He’s impressed me so far.”

Hyman has recorded six goals 13 points as the Marlies hit the midway point of the season. He, like many of the Marlies are new to a team that is emulating a style of play similar to the Maple Leafs lead by coach Mike Babcock.

Through their first 30 games, the Marlies are a league best 23-5-2 with a winning percentage of .800. A winning culture has been creat-

ed from the very beginning.

“I think it’s great that there are so many new faces and that all of the guys are gelling well,” said Hyman. “Sheldon has done a pretty good job of bringing everyone together in such a short amount of time. There’s a lot of continuity of what we’re doing here and what the Leafs are doing so it’s been a pretty easy transition for guys growing up.”

At 23 years of age, his hockey career is only beginning. The story is still unfinished. Although he only writes children’s books right now, Hyman can write one heck of a memoir.

“I just have to make sure I continue to take mental notes of everything that is happening,” Hyman said. “It would be pretty cool to do that one day.”

Zack is now playing for the Toronto Maple Leafs in the NHL!



Photo—Graig Abel / Abel Photography



Photo -Michigan Photography



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LASER QUEST	Spitfires 82	Mississauga
LASER QUEST	Oakville Red Tigers	Oakville
LASER QUEST	Ottawa Sting	Ottawa
LASER QUEST	Markham Waxers	Stouffville
LASER QUEST	Rouge Valley Mitsubishi	Scarborough
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PIZZA PIZZA	Crushers	Nepean
PIZZA PIZZA	Jr. Falons	St. Catharines
PIZZA PIZZA	Nepean Barracudas	Ottawa
PIZZA PIZZA	Oakville Habs	Oakville
PIZZA PIZZA	Oshawa Falcons	Oshawa
PIZZA PIZZA	Pillars	Waterloo
PIZZA PIZZA	Team - Milton Lightning	Milton
PIZZA PIZZA	Telus Gold	Waterloo
PIZZA PIZZA	Thunder Bay Beavers	Thunder Bay
PIZZA PIZZA	Thunder Bay Fury	Thunder Bay
PLAYDIUM	Credit Valley Wolves Minor Atom	Mississauga
PLAYDIUM	Port Credit Storm	Mississauga
RYR BALL HATS	Stoney Creek Warriors	Stoney Creek
RYR BALL HATS	EG Novice Orange	Sharon
RYR JERSEYS	Forest Hill Falcons	Toronto
RYR TOQUES	Caravan Leafs	Greenwood
RYR TOQUES	Ice Raiders	Toronto
SUDBURY WOLVES OHL	Velvet Financing Sudbury Snipers	Sudbury
THN	Kitchener Rangers	Kitchener
THN	Midget Juvenile Gold	Moro
THN	New Hamburg Firebirds Jr C	Port Rowan
THN	St Thomas Stars	St Thomas
THN	Sudbury 80's Red Wings	Subury

TORONTO MARLIES AHL	North Toronto MB A	Toronto
TORONTO MARLIES AHL	Willowdale Blackhawks	Scarborough
VICEORY BAG OF PUCKS	Fireballs	Nepean
VICEORY PRACTICE ICE	Desboro Lions Club	Owen Sound
WAYNE GRETZKY'S TEES	Fitzgeralds Auto Service #4	Blackstock
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DAVID KILENKO	NORTH YORK	9
MAYA SCHMIDT	TORONTO	13
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JOHNNY TAYLER-AYRES	BOWMANVILLE	7



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