

Midget Knights wrap up with Toronto tournament win

By Jake Courtepatte

With the season all but over, the Midget NobleKing Knights took one more lap around the rink and brought a gold medal with them. They capped off an improbable tournament championship Sunday afternoon to take the 2016 Toronto Avalanche March Meltdown tournament, a massive event with teams competing at twelve different levels across Etobicoke and North York.

A six-team round robin had the Knights matched up against some of the best teams in the province, evident in their game one 5-2 loss to the Greater London Jr. Mustangs. They rebounded in a 5-5 tie with the Bradford Bulldogs on Friday evening, and earned their first win of the tournament by a score of 7-4 on Saturday over the Port Credit Storm.

A 3-3 tie with the Halton Thunder set up a semifinal date with the Storm, handing the Storm their second of only two losses in the tournament 3-2.

A rematch of game one is what awaited the Knights in the final, after the Mustangs went a perfect 4-0 in round robin and disposed of Bradford 4-0 in their semi-final. It was NobleKing, however, that came out on top with a final score of 5-3.

Greater London is among the top-10 ranked Midget A teams in the province.

The Knights accomplished the feat with five call-up players from the minor midget ranks on the roster, and missed ten players from the regular season's roster in the championship game.

NobleKing was also represented in the tournament by the Atom A Knights, who fell 1-0 in their semi-final with the East Gwillimbury Eagles, and the minor peewee Knights who could not advance out of their round robin.