

Atom Panthers fall in shootout in Lower Lakes title game



By Jake Courtepatte

In a hectic and final weekend of the hockey season, the Aurora's Atom AA Panthers were able to pull off a silver medal in the largest female hockey league in Ontario.

The Panthers were one of two East finalists to face off in a four-team championship at Buckingham Arena in Toronto last weekend, the culmination of the efforts of the top teams in the Lower Lakes Female Hockey League.

Starting off on the right foot Friday, a win against the other East finalist Durham West Lightning and a tie with the London Devilettes put the Panthers in good standing heading to their final round robin game.

Shut out 2 ? 0 by the Oakville Hornets Saturday morning, their record was good enough to carry them to a rematch in the final later that afternoon.

Both Mikayla Cranney and Kalista Kurtes found the back of the net for the Panthers in regulation, matched by the Hornets to send the game to extra time. Strong goaltending on both ends sent the game to a shootout, where the Panthers put up a valiant effort.

Kurtes, Shayne Desjardins, Alison MacDonald, and Avery Dempsey all beat the Hornets goaltender in a marathon shootout, but were eventually bested by one in a 5 ? 4 score for Oakville.

The silver medal comes on the heels of an impressive accomplishment for the Panthers: to advance to championship weekend, the Atoms roared through both the Toronto Leaside Wildcats and Barrie Sharks without ever giving up a goal, outscoring their opponents 11 ? 0 over a four-game span.

Congratulations go out to Meg Dempsey, Shayne Desjardins, Mikayla Cranney, Alison MacDonald, Gabi Pludra, Abby Lunney, Kalista Kurtes, Hadley McHenry, Kathryn Lou, Mikayla Natale, Colleen Myers, Kyra Lou, Avery Dempsey, Jackie Yoshida, Jalyn St. Louis, and Makenna Roest for a fantastic season.