

Mustangs moving on in YRAA hockey playoffs



By Jake Courtepatte

One is good, but two is better.

Both the boys and girls varsity hockey teams at St. Maximilian Kolbe Catholic High School are moving on to the next round of the YRAA playoffs, after earning victories in the second games of their first-to-three-points series last week.

Dropping the first game of their series with the St. Brother Andre Cardinals 8 ? 2 on Tuesday meant a must-win scenario for the boys Mustang squad on Thursday, a game where they took a 1 ? 0 lead late into the third period.

With the Cardinals pressing, St. Max was forced to kill off a long five-on-three powerplay, managing to do so with some strong positioning to box out their opponent.

Cam Tyndall netted a late empty-netter to secure a 2 ? 0 win, and send the series into a deciding sudden death overtime.

It was just over two minutes into extra time that Wes Reid, who also potted the game's opening goal, buried a rebound to send St. Max into the semifinal round.

Moving on with St. Max are the King City Lions and the St. Theresa of Lisieux Lions, while the Sacred Heart Crusaders and Cardinal Carter Celtics are still battling it out as of press time.

On the girls side, the Mustangs will face either Aurora High School or Stouffville High School in the YRAA championships following a sweep of the Markham District Marauders in their semifinal matchup.

Finishing first place in the pool in the regular season, the Mustangs earned a decisive 5 ? 0 victory in game one of the opening round series, before a 2 ? 1 win sealed the series in Markham on Monday.

Natalie Pantaleo and Emily Gianias netted the goals for the Mustangs, while Olivia Tonelli was solid between the pipes.

They now await their opponent for next week's championship series, with Aurora leading Stouffville one game to none in their semifinal series set to wrap up Thursday after press time.

For schedules and a playoff bracket, visit www.yraa.com.