

Panthers lace up in International Silver Stick



By Jake Courtepatte

Over fifty Atom and Bantam rep teams took to the ice in Aurora for the girls International Silver Stick tournament this weekend, and two hometown teams came out on top.

Both the Atom AA and Bantam BB Panthers were crowned champions in the largest minor hockey tournament in the world, each going undefeated en route to their championship.

The Atoms defeated the Whitby Wolves and Oakville Hornets in round robin play, tying the Waterloo Ravens to meet the Stoney Creek Sabres in Saturday's semifinal.

A 1 ? 0 win set up a championship game against the Barrie Sharks Sunday at the Aurora Community Centre, winning the title by a score of 2 ? 1 in a battle of the undefeated.

The Bantam BB Panthers had a similar path to the championship game, allowing just one goal in wins over the Rocky Mountain Lady RoughRiders and the Barrie Sharks and a tie with the Kitchener Lady Rangers.

They met the Huron Heat in their final after shutting out the Oakville Hornets, downing the Heat 2 ? 1 to earn the championship.

In other action, the North Halton Twisters defeated the Kingston Ice Wolves to win the Atom A division, the Orangeville Tigers shut out the Clearview Ice Cats in Atom BB, and the Oakville Hornets beat the Brampton Canadettes in Bantam A.

The Bantam AA Panthers went undefeated in round robin play, before falling 2 ? 0 to a tough Stoney Creek Sabres squad in Sunday's semifinal. Stoney Creek went on to beat the Oakville Hornets in the championship game.

Now in its eighteenth year, the annual Silver Stick tournament in Aurora attracts over 1,000 spectators and athletes.

As the Central York Girl's Hockey Association regular season comes to a close, the Aurora Panthers rep teams are preparing for playoff action.

Schedules will be posted at www.girlshockey-centrallyork.com.