

SAC Saints are CISAA hockey champs again



By Jake Courtepatte

The St. Andrew's College Saints continue to cement their legacy as one of the top hockey prep schools in the country.

For the fourth year in a row, the first hockey team took home the championship trophy for the CISAA's elite D1 division, blowing the competition out of the water all season.

Rolling through Upper Canada College in the best-of-three semifinal series 6 ? 3 and 4 ? 0, the Saints met Ridley College in the championship matchup; the only team to beat them in league play all year with a 4 ? 2 loss back in late November.

LaBrier Arena was the venue for Game One on Friday, where Ridley gave the reigning champs a scare by potting the opening goal late in the first period. But it was the Saints that cruised from there, regrouping in the final five minutes of the period on three quick goals from Corey Andonovski, Kody Clark, and Regan Kimens.

Mitchell Martan added some insurance in the second, and Andonovski earned his second of the game in the third for a 5 ? 1 Saints win.

Game Two on the road Saturday was a much closer affair, if only to allow the Saints to win in spectacular fashion. Trading two goals apiece by the closing minutes of the third period, junior forward William Sirman played the hero by scoring the game-winning, and series-clinching, goal in the final minute.

Andonovski and Clark also got on the board for the Saints.

Cole Chapman was a wall between the pipes in the final series, stopping 54 of the 57 Ridley shots he faced.

The U12 Saints also have bragging rights as independent school champions, capping off a perfect season last week with a 4 ? 2 win over Crescent School in the final.

Their local dominance all but proven, the first hockey club still faces perhaps their toughest challenge of the year this weekend, hosting the second annual National Independent School Invitational Championship along with UCC's Wilder Arena. Independent schools from across Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick will converge upon LaBrier Arena starting Thursday and ending Sunday.

The Saints, ranked first in NISC rankings, open the tournament against Appleby College at Labrier on Thursday. Puck drop is 10 a.m.