

MISSISSAUGA **INVITATIONAL**

04-04-09

Wolves, Steelhawks & Mighty Ducks come out on top!

On April 4, 2009, the Mississauga Lightning hosted the 8th Annual Mississauga Invitational Floor Hockey Tournament at St. Augustina Secondary School in Brampton. Twenty-four teams representing Kingston, Saugeen Shores, London, Peterborough, Scarboro, Toronto, Milton, Newmarket, Hamilton, Durham, Midland, Muskoka, York South, Owen Sound, Oakville, Flamborough, and of course Mississauga participated in the largest Floor Hockey Tournament in Canada and the largest 100% volunteer run Special Olympics event in the country! After the 39 games and over 250 goals scored, three Champions were crowned, but even more winners!

The action was fast and furious in the Smythe Division where the Milton Mighty Ducks (who won this Division last year as the North Halton Stingers), went 3-0 in round robin play en route to the championship game where they faced the Muskoka Ratlers, who were also undefeated in their bracket. In a close battle, the Mighty Ducks, edged out the Ratlers with a gutsy 2-1 victory, to repeat as the Smythe Division Champs. The Adams division final was next, where the Peterborough Wolves and Midland Hawks, both enjoyed 3-0 records before facing off in a another highly competitive game. Peterborough, were able to secure a 3-1 victory, to repate as Adams Division champs and claim their 3rd Mississauga Inviatational Championship! The Norris Division was next and saw two long time rivals face off, as the Mississauga Lightning and Hamilton Steelhawks battled for the Championship. Mississauga were hoping to win their 3rd Norris Championship in a row, and Hamilton, after spending a few years playing in the Adams Division, were hoping to grab their first Mississauga Invitational Championship! Both teams went 3-0 in the round robin, with Hamilton going to the Championship with three strong wins. Mississauga narrowly edged past a second team from Peterborough to secure their spot in what would be the longest game in Tournament history. With the game tied at 2, Mississauga and Hamilton played a sudden death overtime that was longer than the original game itself! Finally in the **tenth** overtime shift, Hamilton ended the game, winning the Norris Championship 3-2. It was Hamilton's first Championship at the Mississauga Invitational.

But it wasn't just the Champions that went home with hardware. At the end of the day, each and every athlete recieved a trophy. At the Mississauga Invitational, "let me win" gets you a playoff game and "let me be brave in the attempt" gets you an award!

After 39 games, over 1000 minutes of floor hockey, over 250 goals, too many saves to count, and thousands of excellent plays, tournament organizers, referees and spectators, were once again impressed by the play and teamwork of the athletes. At the Mississauga tournament there is a 'one goal, per player, per game rule' which has resulted in a more competitive tournament and more participation by each and every player. This rule is unique to this tournament and encourages team work, sportsmanship and respect for your competitors, attributes that are the core foundations of Special Olympics.

Tournament organizers and volunteers were extremely impressed by the sportsmanship, 'brave attempts' and excellent skills displayed by all the athletes. Appreciation and gratitude to all of our sponsors and donors, and for those suppliers who provide us with our 'special rates'. Special thanks to our referees Mark Woods, Rocco Licalzi, Lorne St. Louis, Carl Azzopardi, Brandon Azzopardi, Kevin Cooper, Rick Walker and of course Stew Logan for doing a great job. A final thank you goes to the parents, friends and family memebers of the Mississauga Lightning who work tirelessly in making this day a highlight of the Floor Hockey season for over 400 athletes from all over Ontario!

We hope to see you all next year on April 10, 2010!

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RESULTS

Adams Division

1. Peterborough Wolves (4-0-0)
2. Midland Hawks B (3-0-1)
3. Kingston Kanucks (2-0-1)
4. York South Hawks (2-0-1)
5. Scarboro Cyclones C (1-0-2)
6. Toronto Metro Leafs B (1-0-2)
7. London Blazers (0-0-3)
8. Durham Devils (0-0-3)

Norris Division

1. Hamilton Steelhawks C (4-0-0)
2. Mississauga Lightning C (3-0-1)
3. Newmarket Ringers (2-0-1)
4. Peterborough Wolves C (1-1-1)
5. Saugeen Shores Shrikes (1-1-1)
6. Owen Sound Thunderbolts (1-0-2)
7. Flamborough Flyers (0-0-3)
8. London Ringers (0-0-3)

Smythe Division

1. Milton Mighty Ducks (4-0-0)
2. Muskoka Ratlers (3-0-1)
3. Midland Hawks D (2-0-1)
4. Mississauga Lightning D (2-0-1)
5. Toronto Metro Leafs D (0-1-2)
6. Hamilton Steelhawks D (0-1-2)
7. Oakville Cougars (0-1-2)
8. Scarboro Cyclones D (0-1-2)

Tournament stats

- 260 or 6.7 goals scored per game (up an average of 1 extra goal per game from last year!)
- 56% of games decided by 3 goals or less!

Goal Differential (GD)

DIVISION	Overall	Round Robin	Playoff
SMYTHE	2.92	3.08	1.00
NORRIS	3.61	3.83	1.00
ADAMS	3.15	3.25	2.00
OVERALL	3.23	3.39	1.33

SCORES

TIME	PAD		1	
8:00	Hamilton D	1	Milton Mighty Ducks	7
8:42	Mississauga D	7	Toronto D	3
9:24	Saugeen Shores	1	Mississauga Lightning	7
10:06	London Ringers	0	Peterborough C	6
10:48	Milton Mighty Ducks	3	Mississauga D	2
11:30	London Blazers	3	Metro Leafs B	5
12:12	Muskoka Ratlers	5	Scarboro Cyclones D	1
12:54	Kingston Kanuks	3	Midland Hawks B	4
1:36	Flamborough Flyers	1	Newmarket Ringers	4
2:18	Saugeen Shores	2	Peterborough C	2
3:00	Kingston Kanuks	7	Metro Leafs B	0
3:42	Midland Hawks D	7	Scarboro Cyclones D	1
	ADAMS		CHAMPIONSHIP	
4:34	Midland Hawks B	1	Peterborough B	3
TIME	PAD		2	
8:00	Oakville	4	Scarboro Cyclones D	4
8:42	Scarboro Cyclones C	3	York South Hawks	4
9:24	Midland Hawks D	2	Muskoka Ratlers	4
10:06	Durham Devils	2	Peterborough B	8
10:48	Midland Hawks D	6	Oakville	2
11:30	Mississauga Lightning	2	Peterborough C	1
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