

Kemptville Panthers Atom B1 2012 Bell Cup Finalists

The Kemptville Panthers Atom B1 Team was 1 of 60 teams participating in the Bell Cup Atom House B Division held December 28th, 2011 to January 1st, 2012. Going into the tournament the Atom B1 team, undefeated in regular season play, were hopeful of representing Kemptville well. And they did just that! The Panthers proved to be very strong, winning all 3 round robin games and finishing first in their pool. There were many highlights throughout the round robin including pin trading with local teams as well as teams from Europe and Asia. Our Panthers represented KDMHA very well in the skills competitions. Max Johnston, Nathaniel Lawlor and Ryan Norenberg won the Power Play Challenge and Thom Dulmage and Robbie Leach came second in the defensive portion of the Power Play Challenge. Ryan Norenberg, Owen Preston, Mark Gilpin and Nathaniel Lawlor won the Skating Relay. Schuyler French, Nolan Forbes and goalie Zack Adams competed in the Breakaway Relay, Connor Manderson in the Accuracy Shooting and Devon Ramsden, Aiden Desormeaux and Nolan Brien in the Agility Relay. They all did exceptionally well. The All Star Game was a highlight headed by our very own Coaching Staff and included our goalie Robbie Leach, defenseman Thom Dulmage and right winger Connor Manderson. Connor scored 5 goals and won the MVP.

December 31st was a long day for the Panthers but they stayed focused and continued to play well. They defeated the Ottawa Centre Red Ravens in their first playoff game 4-1 and a strong Carleton Place Squad in the quarter finals 4-3. The Panthers played what was their best game of the tournament in the Semi-Final defeating the West End Snipers 5-1. This set up the Final to be played against the Pembroke Panthers on New Year's Day at Scotiabank Place. Many friends and family from out of town (including Defenseman Sam Bowlby in Hawaii!) watched the game live on the internet. Just before the Panthers took to the ice, there was a very loud cheer from the stands. Coach Pete ran out to see that with just a few seconds to go, our own Atom C4 team had taken the lead in their final game. Our boys were very happy to hear that their buddies on the Atom C4 won the Bell Capital Cup right before they were to take the ice.

After falling behind 1-0 after the 1st period, our Panthers battled hard to tie it up in the second and take the lead half way through the 3rd period. But on this day it wasn't meant to be. Pembroke came back with 2 late 3rd period goals to win the game and the tournament. Our Kemptville Panthers accepted their trophy with pride, knowing they had worked so hard to stand there at that moment. Head coach, Pete Johnston was never more proud of these boys than at that moment.

``It's a reflection of the character of our players the way they took the loss. They were upset they hadn't won but shook hands like true sportsmen and congratulated Pembroke for their efforts. I am extremely proud of these young men. `` says Pete Johnston.

Thank you to our Coaches, Pete Johnston, Chris French, Geoff Bowlby, Dan Dulmage, and our Trainers Sarah Ramsden and Gary Lawlor. As well, a big Thank you to all our affiliate players for playing hard and being a part of this awesome experience.