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News that matters to people in southeastern Manitoba

STEINBACH, MANITOBA, THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

VOLUME 78 NUMBER 18

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CASSIDY DANKOCHIK THE CARILLON

Ty Paisley and the rest of the Steinbach Pistons authored the perfect ending to the T.G. Smith Centre April 29, defeating the Virden Oil Capitals 3-0 in game five of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League finals, and winning their third Turnbull Cup. Paisley was spectacular throughout the post-season, leading the MJHL in scoring. The hometown product had 29 points throughout the playoffs, as Steinbach also clinched a spot at the Centennial Cup in Portage la Prairie. Over 1,300 people packed into the T.G. Smith Centre to watch the final game of the playoffs.

\$30-M surgical expansion planned for Bethesda

by NICOLE BUFFIE

Three new operating rooms to be built at Bethesda Hospital by 2025 will do more to attract needed health care providers to the region, officials say.

Last Friday Southern Health CEO

Jane Curtis said the \$30-million surgical centre complete with three ORs, a lab and 12 patient spots will keep providers close to home while bringing new ones to the area.

"Health providers want to be part of a vibrant healthcare system, whether it's hospital or community

programs, they want to know that there's a vision. And I think that's what we have here," Curtis told reporters at the announcement.

The expansion follows a 2021 announcement of Bethesda's renal unit renovation and the addition of 15 acute care beds and eight surgical beds.

Dr. Cristo Minnaar, chief of staff for Bethesda, said the improvements will go a long way in supporting a "sustainable work environment" while Mayor Earl Funk called the announcement "enormous" for the growing city.

"The province recognizes that as we grow, we also need more services," he said, adding he hopes the expansion, too, will attract doctors to the region.

"This will be the projects that will help us."

In September 2021 documents obtained and released by the Manitoba NDP showed Southern Health, which serves over 216,000 residents, had a 21 percent vacancy rate in registered nursing positions.

In August 2022 Southern Health issued a statement saying their health authority, like most others, were experiencing shortages and addressing them as best as they could after the Manitoba Nurses Union claimed the Steinbach health centre was operating below their baseline number of nurses over one weekend that month.



Steinbach MLA Kelvin Goertzen said the three new operating rooms announced last Friday is a "grand slam" for healthcare in Steinbach.

See 'Expansion a 'grand slam' for the region' on 2A

STARS called to Ste Anne collision

by SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC

Two people were sent to hospital following a collision in the RM of Ste Anne on Monday.

The accident occurred in the eastbound lane of Highway 1 at the intersection of Road 42E, at 2:05 p.m.

In an RCMP statement released Tuesday, police said a dump truck was heading eastbound when it attempted to make a right hand turn onto Road 42E. A semi truck, driving eastbound behind the dump truck, hit the dump truck from behind and both ended up in the ditch.

Both drivers required extrication from their vehicles. The 53-year-old male driver of the dump truck, from Steinbach, was transported to hospital with non-life threatening injuries.

The 73-year-old male driver of the semi, from the RM of Whitemouth, was taken by STARS to hospital in Winnipeg. Both men remain in hospital and are reported in stable condition.



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SOFTBALL



Local softball season to begin this weekend **2B**

Carillon SPORTS

HOCKEY



HyLife Center to host Pistons next season **3B**

THURSDAY, MAY 4, 2023

Sports Editor Cassidy Dankochik sports@thecarillon.com



CASSIDY DANKOCHIK THE CARILLON

The Steinbach Pistons sent out the T.G. Smith Centre in style, winning the Turnbull Cup in their final game in the old barn.

Pistons cap off T.G. Smith Centre with 3rd MJHL championship

by CASSIDY DANKOCHIK

The Steinbach Pistons authored a perfect end to the T.G. Smith Centre, winning their third Turnbull Cup on home ice over the Virden Oil Capitals April 30.

Their 3-0 victory would be the final action inside the aging building, which is due to be replaced by fall of 2024. Over 1,300 people packed into the old barn to watch Steinbach clinch the title.

It was a true home ice advantage for the Pistons, as they posted a home record of 7-3 in the Manitoba Junior Hockey League (MJHL) playoffs, including three wins in the finals.

"A lot of teams in Steinbach have won this year, so we felt a little pressure to hoist another trophy," long-time head coach and general manager Paul Dyck said after the game, his voice hoarse from celebrating.

"I've spent many, many years in this building, and I can't think of a better way for it to end. You just couldn't write a better script."

The Oil Capitals undoing in game five came across a short stretch of the first period. With the game still scoreless, Virden took five penalties

in four minutes of game time, giving up powerplay goals to Travis Hensrud and Ty Paisley.

Hensrud's tally showed great patience from the forward, as he took the puck along the half-wall, started in towards the faceoff dot looking for his shot, before circling back around to get a better angle.

"We were just looking for a lot of shots off the flanks, and I just got an opening and ripped it home," Hensrud said.

"The far side was wide open, there was a good screen by (Nik) Mikan, and I just took advantage of it."

Hensrud is one of a few players who came up one game short of an MJHL championship last season, as the Pistons lost in a game seven on home ice to Dauphin.

"It was a bitter taste from last year," he said.

"We didn't want that to happen again. We just fought together. All the guys bought in."

Paisley's goal was especially heart-breaking for the Caps, as Davis Chorney and Bray Rookes took minor penalties during the same sequence while their team was already down a man. A heroic effort to kill off the two-plus minutes of the ensuing five-on-three was all for naught, as

Paisley doubled the Steinbach lead after all but one penalty had expired.

"We knew we had to get a powerplay goal with all the powerplays we had," Paisley said.

"Our powerplay hasn't been great throughout the finals, but we stuck with it."

The homegrown forward lead the MJHL in scoring throughout the playoffs, and was nearly automatic from the slot, scoring 11 goals and 18 assists across 18 games. As the post-season rolled on, the 2004-born forward was able to find more space to unleash his dangerous shot. Paisley's goal in the first period came from a similar spot to Hensrud's, as he walked into a strong wrist from just above the right faceoff dot.

"(I) learned how to play the more physical side of the game, play more defensive," Paisley said when asked how he grew through the playoffs.

"My linemates, Dawson (Milliken) and Kirk (Mullen) were unbelievable, so that helped a lot as well."

Those two goals were the only cushion Steinbach starter Dominik Wasik needed. Across three home games in the finals, Wasik was perfect, not allowing a single goal on 83 shots.

Wasik said staying in the present

moment was key for him during the finals. It was a textbook performance from the Colorado goaltender, who did a masterful job controlling rebounds throughout the playoffs, limiting Virden's ability to generate extended chances.

Wasik started all 18 games for Steinbach in the playoffs, including all games on back-to-back days, while posting a league-leading 2.35 goals against average and 0.921 save percentage.

"The (quarterfinal) series against Winkler, all they were doing was looking for rebounds, and crashing the net, and I think we really grew, and I grew, controlling rebounds and second opportunities," Wasik said.

Milliken earned playoff most valuable player honours, but Dyck noted he was one of many who could have walked away with the honour.

"(Milliken) pulled us into a lot of battles when we were not going as a group," Dyck said.

"He's certainly deserving of it, but (Dominik Wasik) was also deserving of it, he was just there for us every game. To have three shutouts in a series is crazy to think about."

Steinbach forward Leo Chambers had to leave the game with a broken collarbone, but was able to return to

celebrate the championship with his teammates on the ice.

While players were concerned for Chambers, Dyck said they did a good job of focusing on the task at hand, relying on the medical staff to take care of their fallen teammate.

Despite playing with 11 forwards, every Steinbach player saw multiple shifts in the third period, as Dyck rolled four lines, relying on the team's defensive depth to carry them forward. Dyck said he loved how the team played in the third period.

"We asked our guys to all be Selke trophy winners, to play like Patrice Bergeron," he said, referring to the award given to the NHL's top defensive forward.

"We got it from everybody... (I'm) just really, really proud of how everyone bought in."

The Pistons only gave up six shots in the final frame.

Steinbach will join the host Portage Terriers as MJHL teams at the Centennial Cup, which will begin May 11. The national junior A championship includes 10 teams from across the country.

For more photos from the celebration, check out page 2B, for James Loewen's take on the game turn to 3B.



CASSIDY DANKOCHIK THE CARILLON

Ty Paisley unleashes a shot which would beat Virden goalie Eric Reid. Paisley's goal gave Steinbach a 2-0 lead they never looked in danger of losing.



CASSIDY DANKOCHIK THE CARILLON

Dawson Milliken rushes to his teammates after accepting the Turnbull Cup from MJHL commissioner Kevin Saurette

PISTONS WIN TURNBULL CUP

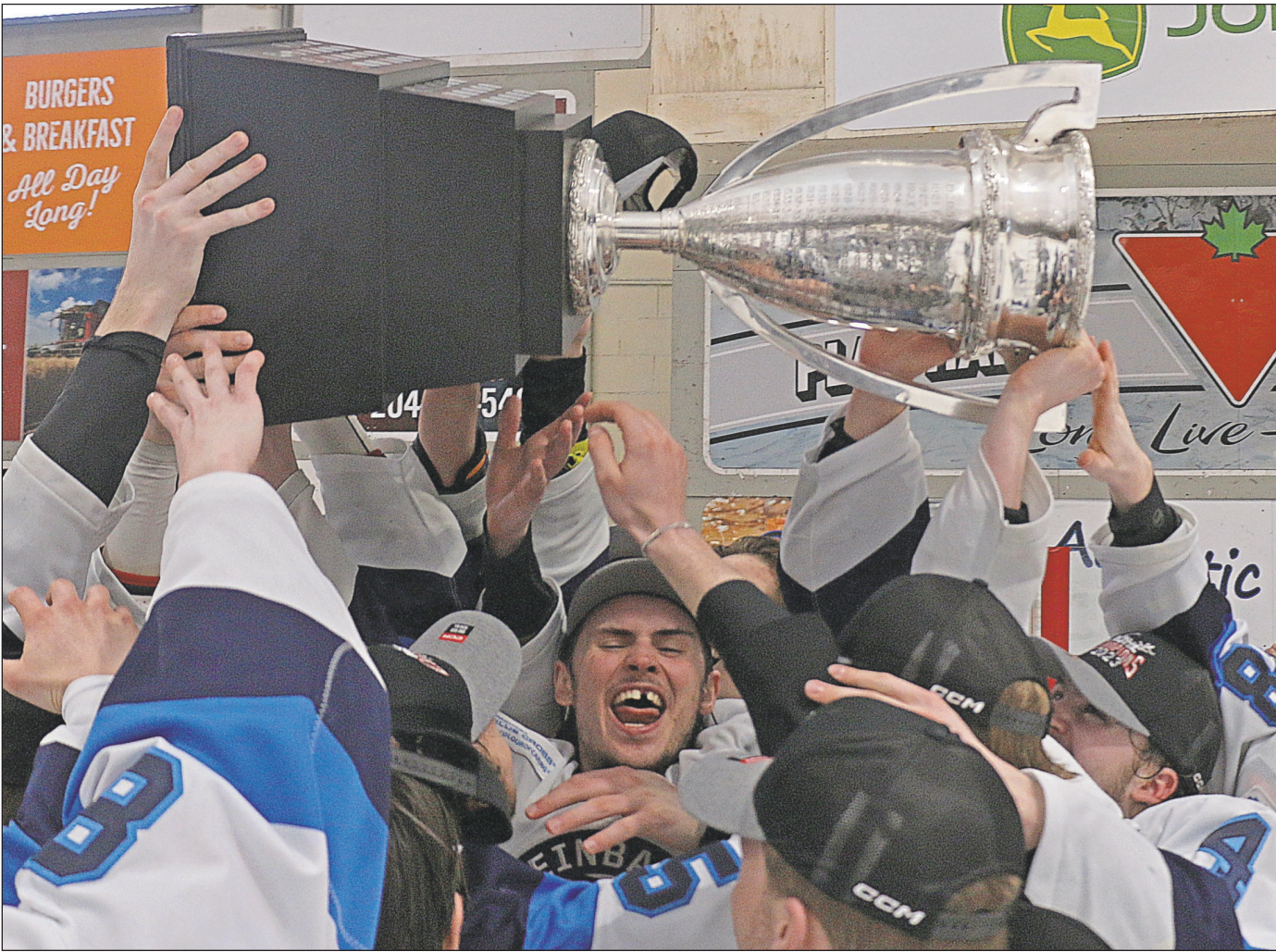
Photos by CASSIDY DANKOCHIK THE CARILLON



Pistons players swarm the ice in celebration after the final buzzer clinched the 2023 MJHL championship.



Fans yell with excitement after Kirk Mullen scored an empty net goal to clinch an MJHL championship.



Dawson Milliken is mobbed by teammates after winning the Turnbull Cup.



Leo Chambers didn't let a mid-game injury stop him from joining his teammates on the ice for the celebration.

Local softball season kicks off this weekend

by CASSIDY DANKOCHIK

The ball diamonds near Friedensfeld will soon be filled with the ding of bats and the pop of catcher's mitts as the Eastman Wildcats softball season is set to get underway.

Games could be taking place at the facility as soon as May 7, with the U13 team hosting the Interlake Phillies, depending on field conditions.

Russ Kihn helps coach U13 for the Wildcats, and has a daughter playing for the U15 team. He said players from all age groups have been eager to hit the fields, but a late-spring snowfall had prevented it.

"It's been a bit frustrating, but it's definitely getting us excited for when we can get out there," Kihn said.

Teams have been practicing through the winter indoors, with some even meeting twice a week.

"We should have some strong teams in most age groups," Kihn said.

"We should definitely challenge for medals at provincials."

Registration for the Wildcats has been strong according to Kihn. He added high-level rural programs across the province have thrived through the pandemic.

"We have a lot of kids interested, and who have stuck with it through the whole COVID situation," Kihn said.

"We haven't really lost players due to that... Being an outdoor sport helps."

The group will be fielding a U19 team this season, alongside players from the Interlake Phillies, in addition to U13, U15 and U17 teams. Last season marked the first time a player from the program earned a American college scholarship and their first appearance at a national championship.

Dominique Tetrault spent last fall playing in Milwaukee.

"We like to measure (success) by the players growing and getting better every year and improving their skills year to year," Kihn said.

"(Tetrault) is a big feather in the hat for our organization, sending a player to the next level, but even if they don't go to that level, just continuing to be involved after they're out of our organization is the goal."

Friedensfeld, located just a few kilometres south of Steinbach, boast some of the best softball facilities in the province.

"It's awesome," Kihn said.

"The atmosphere, the location, is just fantastic. The grounds crew, all the people at the (Friedensfeld) hall do a great job. We really appreciate them."

The U13 AAA provincials will be hosted in Friedensfeld this season in mid-July.



The Eastman Wildcats walk into the opening ceremonies at the U15 National Softball Championships in Saskatoon in 2022. They were the first Wildcats team to make a national championship, and the squad had a solid showing, finishing sixth.

Teeing up for a new season



Ernie Funk launches a drive off the first tee of the Steinbach Fly-In Golf Club May 2. The day marked the first time in 2023 golfers could hit the links at either Quarry Oaks or Steinbach Fly-In.

Warriors return to the pitch



Ifa Kaukirewa puts the Eastman Warriors through their paces during a practice at A.D. Penner Park May 1. The park's schedule is full of practices and games, as the summer sports schedule ramps up. The Warriors should have their premier division rugby schedule kick off in early June.