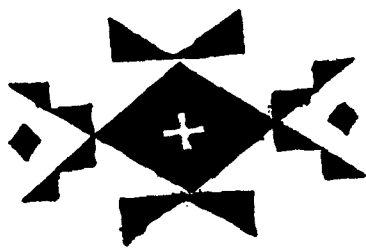


Sports



Ted Maness of Walpole Island tries to work around Akwesasne Randy Connors and Larry King #66.

by Derrick Paul/Staff
 "The goalie made the game."
 These were words that came out of a happy Akwesasne Arrows dressing room during post game celebrations.
 The Tom Brown Arena in Ottawa and the McNabb Arena played host to the three day Odawa Native Hockey Tournament.
 Mike Benedict Jr. was in goal for all games for Akwesasne and he received the best goaltenders award as well as a 1.6 G.A.A. when the tourney was over.
 He recieved high marks from Arrows Coach Dennis Chaussi.
 "Mikey played outstanding," he says, "other people (fans) complimented him on his game."
 In game one Friday night the Arrows played Walpole Island and won 4-1. Tom Thomas, Tyler Sunday, Leb Thomas and Kyle Jacobs scored for the win. Chris and Mark Thomas each received assists in that game.
 Ken Sands replied for Walpole Island, with a goal in the third period. The shot had goaltender Mike Benedict a little taken in.
 "I thought it was going for my blocker but it rose up over my shoulder" said Benedict.
 In game two on Saturday afternoon they faced Golden Lake and pulled off a 7-2 win.
 Tom Thomas scored unassisted early in the first period but Doug Whiteduck tied it at one and that was how the period ended.
 In the middle frame the Arrows got the go ahead goal with 1:11 gone. Toby Sunday fought for the puck in the corner to the left of the G. Lake net. He got the loose puck and sent it to Stevie Thomas who went in across the front of the net and used the backhand for the score.
 Shortly afterward Golden Lake got the tying goal on a Akwesasne mix up.
 The Arrows got caught with two many men on the ice and they tried to get the lines straightened out before officials caught on. While changing up, Barry Sarazin of Golden Lake took advantage of this and went in alone on Mikey

Benedict and scored.
 Fortunately for the Arrows this was G.Lakes last goal of the game.
 At 9:10 Darren Cook of the Arrows took a shot and the save was made. However, the rebound came out to Tyler Sunday who took a couple of swipes at it and eventually scored.
 With :47 left in the second period, Stevie Thomas scored his second of the night as he knocked in a Toby Sunday rebound.
 In this second intermission the scorekeeper said this was the most interesting game of the tournament. Some good hockey, some fast action and some between play words between the Arrows and Golden Lake.
 In the third period, Merv Sarazin of Golden Lake got a double minor for high sticking the Arrows Kyle Jacobs. On the power play Stevie Thomas got his third goal of the game after some nifty passing from Chris Thomas and Tom Thomas.
 Leb Thomas and John Oakes scored late in the game to round off the scoring. Chris Thomas assisted on both goals.
 Next game for Akwesasne was Saturday night at the MaNabb Arena where they met Curve Lake.
 This was the Quarter finals and the Arrows continued their tournament winning streak with an 8-3 win.
 Tom Thomas and Tyler Sunday each scored two goals, John Oakes, Kyle Jacobs, Chris Thomas and Robbie Thomas scored one each.
 This victory put them in the Championship Semi-Finals and their next game was against defending tournament champions Kahnawake.
 In 1991 the Kahnawake Mohawks beat Akwesasne 3-2 in the Championship. This year that same 3-2 score was reversed and the Arrows won with some good passing and impressive goaltending on both ends.
 The only thing lacking was some discipline from both benches.
 Kahnawake got the only goal of

the first period Dave Charles getting the credit and Chris Thomas of Kahnawake receiving an assist.
 In the second period Darren Diabo put his Kahnawake club up by 2 with Dave MacComber getting the assist and they were leading 2-0 into the final period.
 The Arrows got on the board very early in the third with Chris Thomas knocking in the loose puck during a scrum in front of the Mohawks goalie.
 Larry King got the assist.
 At 2:40 Mark Thomas sent the puck toward the net and it ended up loose in the crease, waiting for Tyler Sunday to knock it in.
 Both teams had some end to end rushes and some more excellent playing in their effort to get the tie breaker.
 This came at 4:16 as Leb Thomas set himself up in front of the net and waited for the pass from Chris Thomas. The goalie was occupied with the play and the pass came to Leb who fired it into the open net.
 Kahnawake tried for the tying goal but were denied repeatedly by Mikey Benedict.
 Akwesasne chances to hold off the Mohawks looked dim as Tyler Sunday went off for cross checking with 1:28 left in the game.
 One minute later the Mohawks Greg Charles brought the stick up high and hit Tom Thomas. As Charles was making his way to the dressing room he was delivered a water bottle from the Arrows bench via Air Mail. This brought over the Kahnawake coach to the Akwesasne bench. Some words were exchanged and they were not talking about the weather.
 When order was restored the Arrows hung on for the win. Their 3-2 loss last year was vindicated and they were off to meet Maniwaki in the Championship.
 Prior to this game, Walpole Island defeated Parry Island 6-4 for the Consolation championship. Jerry Jacobs and Ken Sands scored two each for the Walpole Island squad as Ed Jacobs scored one.
 Some of the Akwesasne players were watching from the sidelines and they complimented the Walpole Island players who had "shades of 66": (Mario Lemieux.)
 The Championship game started out in championship form. Maniwaki scored the only goal of the first period with a first class passing play. Mike Bresseau and Philip Visitor finally got the puck to Andy Decontie.
 Akwesasne sniper Tom Thomas tried to tie it up with :19 remaining in the opening period. He used a blast from the point which dropped Maniwaki goalie Morris Tenascow to his knees temporarily.
 At 8:05 in the second period Darren Cook scored with the assist going to Tyler Sunday and the score remained 1-1 at the end of two.
 In the third period Stevie Thomas was rushing in with Tom Thomas. Stevie gave the puck to Tom and he unloaded a blast from the right face off circle. Maniwaki goalie Tenascow got a piece of it but it somehow was dropped and it trickled in over the line. This proved to be the game winning goal.



Perry Benoit of Golden Lake offers some friendly advice to Akwesasne players sitting in the penalty box.

Photo: Derrick Paul.

Arrows Win Ottawa Tournament



Mike Benedict Jr. get the Best Goaltenders award for the Tournament. Presenting is Jack Maness.

Photo: Derrick Paul.



Mark Maracle, right presents Tom Thomas with the Championship trophy and the "A" division award.

Photo: Derrick Paul.



Tyler Sunday, left, accepts the trophy for Most Valuable Player in the Championship game. At right is Jack Maness.

Photo: Derrick Paul.

Tom Thomas also recieved high marks from Coach Chaussi.
 "Tom played outstanding throughout the whole tournament", says Chaussi, "he played steady in the back."
 Rod Mackenzie joined the Arrows on Sunday and contributed greatly on the ice. He was thanked for coming to Ottawa on short notice and he replied, "My pleasure...anytime."
 Mark Thomas had complimentary words of Maniwaki goaltender Tenascow.
 "I was robbed (on a breakaway) I shot and hoped it would hop over him. But his blocker was there."
 Coach Chaussi agreed that the Maniwaki goalie played a good game.
 He also gave this years winning formula as compared to the last two years when the Arrows lost.
 "The defence was used to pitching in and fighting for the puck when we were down a few goals."
 The defence did not get out of position (this year.)



Robbie Thomas of the Arrows

Photo: Derrick Paul.