

## THE SUBURBAN (CITY EDITION)

Strong action photos, well cropped, good headlines and inviting page layouts propelled this entry to first place. Pages are crisp and clean.

## QUEBEC CHRONICLE-TELEGRAPH

Storytelling won the day for this entry - different take on what could have been same old game coverage made all of the entries by this paper very good reads.

### SPORTS GMAA CHAMPIONSHIP SPECIAL

## Braves track Kodiaks for bantam GMAA title

Loyola 5 | Kuper 1

By Mark Lidbeter  
The Suburban



ANDREY SOROKIN/ST. LOUIS BLUES

"We wanted a strong start this game and it was the strongest start of the year," asserted Braves head coach Brian Traynor. "We have an undefeated season, but had the opportunity to lose in tournaments."

The Loyola Bantam Boys' Braves capped off a perfect season after downing the Kuper Kodiaks 5-1 to take the GMAA top-spot Tuesday at LCC. "We wanted a strong start this game and it was the strongest start of the year," asserted Braves head coach Brian Traynor. "We have an undefeated season, but had the opportunity to lose in tournaments."

The Braves quickly took control of the ice in the first period out-shooting the rival Kodiaks 2-1 with shots on goal in addition to fending-off two Kodiak power plays. In the closing minutes of the opening period, the Braves delivered two goals into the Kodiaks' net from Nicholas Chevrier followed by Matthew Brus for a 2-0 lead. According to Traynor "the team really showed up today."

The Braves continued their charge into the second period opening with a goal by Alexander Cinquino extending the lead. The Kodiaks struggled to keep-up with the Braves' momentum, but seemed un-

able to capitalize on power plays that included a short-handed and second Braves' goal by Cinquino. Kodiaks head coach Jared Silver conceded that his team "struggled with the powerplay and just couldn't get the puck to the net." "It was a tough game, but the kids battled for the entire game," said Silver whose team could not capitalize many of their power plays. "We're in a developing year and I have been proud of my guys since day one." In the opening minute of the final period Kuper strained with a power play opportunity that denied the Braves of a shut-out with a goal by the Jake Sigal in addition to fending-off a five-on-three power play. In the final minute of the game Kuper gambled with an empty net to catch-up to the Braves, but were stopped with an open-net goal by Brave James Van Alst that ended the game 5-1. "There was a temporary lack of focus in the third period, but we got back into the game," said Traynor who also admitted that his team was stymied by Kodiaks' goalie Jonathan Levy. "Kuper's goalie [performance] did not reflect the score, but our team came-out and poured their hearts out on the ice." MVP: Braves goalie Julian Zompa.

## Villa edges ECS for GMAA midget basketball crown

By Mike Hickey  
The Suburban

The Villa Maria Midget Girls basketball team capped an outstanding season by winning the Greater Montreal Athletic Association Championship with a hard-fought 31-26 victory over Miss Edgar and Miss Cramps School earlier this week. The game was a nip-and-tuck affair from the opening tip-off with nine lead changes and was in doubt until the final minute. Villa trailed 26-25 midway through the fourth quarter but scored the game's final six points to claim their second consecutive GMAA title.

Points were at a premium as both teams exhibited strong defensive play. Villa held 5-4 lead at the end of the first quarter, trailed 13-12 at halftime and took a 24-22 advantage into the final eight minutes of play. ECS tied the game early in the fourth quarter on a basket by Amanda Nulnik and after a foul shot by Jamie McGrath gave Villa a one-point lead, Nulnik scored again to give ECS their final lead 26-25, Jenna Allyne

came two free throws and a basket to put Villa back on top 29-26 and McGrath iced the victory with another basket. Villa's ability to score from the foul line proved to be a deciding factor as they out-scored ECS 11-1 from the charity stripe.

Allyne, held to just three points in the first half, exploded for 12 in the second half and was named the game's Most Valuable Player.

"We wanted to stop their best player (Allyne) and we did a great job, we kept her well below her average," ECS head coach Alrick Crawford said.

Villa's Jamie Muha said that Allyne's aggressiveness was one of the keys to the victory. "We were nervous in the beginning but we kept it under control," Muha said. "Jenna is aggressive, she never gives up." Chella Price and Nulnik shared scoring honours for ECS with nine points apiece. Villa reached the finals with a 47-31 win over Lower Canada College while ECS downed Westwood High School 35-27 in the other semifinal game.

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## Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament forges friendships



Les petits Nordiques de Québec had a special treat as they got to get up close and personal with the Stanley Cup.

teams playing at five levels of competition. Aside from the Colisée Pepsi, where all the championship games were played on Sunday, four other arenas throughout the city hosted the tournament's 190 games from February 11 to 22. In the halls of the arena, kids wielding mini hockey sticks slapped and chased pucks around, while hockey parents from around the world shared stories of life on the road. Eric and Haley Katt made the trip up from Michigan with their son Dakota, 12, who played with the Detroit Red Wings during the tournament. As hockey parents, the Katts say traveling for tournaments is nothing new. "We travel about every other weekend for tournaments," Eric said. "He's been playing since he was six so we're pretty used to it by now." They said that they've really enjoyed their time in Quebec City and that their son would love to come back again. "He said he wants to come back next year, but this will be his only shot at it," he said, as the tournament is just for 11- and 12-year-old players. Players stay with local host families around the city and when they're not playing hockey, they get to take part in cultural activities and experience life in Quebec City. A few bells and whistles were added at this year's tournament, notably the giant video screen above the skating rink at Place d'Youville that broadcast and replayed games. One local team playing in the tournament also received an unexpected surprise. After an exciting 5-1 victory against Slovakia, the Corsaires de Pointe-Lévy (playing as Les Petits Nordiques de Québec in the tournament) were led into a locker room to spend some time with the Stanley Cup.

With the new Quebec City Amphitheatre set to open in September this year, mayor Régis Labeaume said last week that the 66-year-old Colisée will eventually be demolished, bringing to an end the building that has hosted the annual tournament for many years. But there was still time for one last group of players to forge friendships and memories in the building, both on the ice and in the community. Now in its 58th year, the hockey tournament brought together 2,300 young players from 17 countries, with 120

## Israeli curlers have big dreams

It's a chilly Monday morning at the Jacques Cartier curling club on Boulevard René-Lévesque, and curlers are shouting in two languages over the cheers of friends and family and the "pock" of stones hitting each other. The curling tournament at the Quebec City Winter World Masters Games is in full swing. Skip Mark Morrison is skipping his team through a nail-biting eighth end. Morrison's team gets five on the last rock to pull out a victory, but his name is nowhere on the list of teams. In curling, teams are usually named after their skips (captains), but Morrison and his team-mates have named themselves Shalom in the House. They represent the Israeli Curling Federation, and they're the first curlers ever to don the blue-and-white Israeli uniform at an international Masters (ages 35+) event. Morrison, 57, from Windsor, Ont., curls alongside T.J. Casser from Baltimore, Maryland, and brothers Larry and Ray Sidney from Lake Tahoe, Oregon. "The Israeli Curling Federation put out a casting call for North American curlers. A friend at the Federation contacted me and I said, 'My brother and I would love that,'" explains Larry Sidney. The Sidneys only curled with their two team-mates for the first time one day before the competition. Sidney, who has only been curling for about two years, says it is an honour to represent Israel. "One of the greatest things about international sports is representing something bigger than your self. It's the kind of thing athletes dream about, but you never know if you'll ever actually do it."



Israeli skip Mark Morrison (right) prepares to throw the stone as TJ Casser (left) and Larry Sidney look on.

"I like the social aspect of curling," says Casser, who discovered curling while watching the 2006 Olympics. "You're encouraged to be a good sport and to socialize after the game, and there's no booing when the other team makes a great shot. It's very collegial. This is my first international trip and I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world." "If you had asked me a year ago if we'd be curling in this tournament, representing Israel, I wouldn't have thought it possible," says Morrison. The skip came aching close to making Israel's elite men's team at a tryout in Minnesota, but is now embracing his next challenge - leading the Masters' men's team while trying to spread the sport of curling in Israel. The Israeli Curling Federation wants to enter a team for the 2018 or 2022 Olympic Winter Games, and is testing the water in terms of international competition. "I'd love to go to Israel and help teach the game," says Morrison. "I'll go to teach it in high schools and get designated ice, what a goal that would be!" "Our Masters Games have already been successful," continues Morrison, whose team eventually finished fifth. "We could have lost all our games and [our efforts] would have been successful. I came to represent the Federation and any success on the ice is a bonus." Morrison also hopes that curling's reputation as a gentlemanly, civil sport will contribute to cool tensions in a conflict-ridden part of the world. "Curling is a tremendously social sport even though you're competitive," he says. "Regardless of race, gender, colour or nationality, everyone can curl. It helps bring people together."

"Maybe it's idealistic," adds Morrison, "but I want to bring the world together through sport. A lot of international sports federations won't let their athletes play against Israeli teams because of politics. But I think it would be great if Egypt or Saudi Arabia had a curling team and we could all curl and shake hands and sit and talk after the game, as one. Wouldn't that be wonderful?" Morrison didn't take their

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# SPORTS

## Mohawks stumble out of the gate, drop opener

AUSTIN ROBSON  
The Eastern Door



The defending OSSL champs had a rough go of it to start the season.

The defending Quebec Senior Lacrosse League (QSSL) champs had a rough outing this past weekend against last year's finalists, the Capital (Ottawa) Axemen. The Kahnawake Mohawks, pre-season favourites to return to the Presidents' Cup this year, were made the victim of a short bench. "The Axemen dressed 17 rammers, and had the obvious advantage in the stamina category as the game went along. "Some of the guys on our team are still on their pro teams or had work," said Mohawks' goaltender Alexandre Fortier, former Caughnawaga Indians goaltender and Presidents' Cup bronze medalist, who is back after a one-year hiatus from the league due to time conflicts with work. "It's difficult to play with a short bench like that especially against a team like Ottawa."

However the Mohawks did get off to a quick start in this match up when Markie Kirby blew one past P'77 Axemen goaltender Brett Perras for the early 1-0 lead.

It didn't take long for the Axemen to respond and knot things up at one after a Todd Chapman tally. Kevin Davey was able to give the Mohawks the 2-1 lead with his first with the club, however the Axemen would go on to score four straight goals to close out the first period.

In his first game in roughly a year, the first was apparent on Fortier in the first period where he seemed overwhelmed by Ottawa's firepower. However Fortier looked incredible in the second and third period, making a series of huge saves to keep the game relatively close. "I knew it would be a rough



Austin Robson the Eastern Door

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## THE EASTERN DOOR

Comprehensive local sports coverage, good photos, good page layouts - nice work!

Judge: Michelle Rea, Executive Director, New York Press Association, Cohoes, NY • Number of entries in the Best Sports Page(s) category: 7