

Wolves gobble up the gold medal

Floor hockey team wins Special Olympics national title

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Peterborough Special Olympics achieved a first on Saturday when its floor hockey team won a national title.

Representing Ontario, the Peterborough Wolves edged British Columbia in the most dramatic fashion to win the A Division gold medal at the Special Olympics National Winter Games in Thunder Bay.

Michael Brioux scored with two seconds left to break a 3-3 tie. The Wolves rallied from a 2-0 deficit to lead 3-2 until B.C. tied it with two-and-a-half minutes remaining.

"Brioux scored from the blue line and when it went in the back of the net everyone was excited," said player Brandon Van Sickle. "It was quite the close game. We feel really good. We accomplished more than I think everyone expected."

It wasn't the only success for local athletes. Lisa Butler won



SPECIAL TO THE EXAMINER

The Peterborough Wolves floor hockey team, representing Ontario, beat British Columbia to win the A Division gold medal at the Special Olympics National Winter Games in Thunder Bay.

three gold medals in cross-country skiing. Steve Caban won silver and bronze in cross country skiing and Crystal Cochrane won silver in team bowling.

The floor hockey team went undefeated with three wins and two ties. Stone Shearer, Mike Ludlow and Brandon Sweeting also scored in the final.

"This was a first for our floor hockey program," said Wolves

coach Ron Cambridge. "It's exciting. The guys can proudly say they are Team Canada even though there may not be a world games. We haven't heard anything officially, yet, but in our division, the top division, we are champions."

Cambridge said they were a dedicated group.

"It was their determination and dedication. We've been together for the last couple of

years and everybody just wanted it. We were able to click together as a team. We have a couple of players who are solid defence players with their bodies going into corners. We have a couple of forwards who are very quick who are able to manoeuvre around and get the goals when we need them."

Van Sickle said it came down to teamwork.

"We passed the puck. We were on everybody. We played as a team. We controlled it. We made sure passes were crisp. The coaches had a meeting and told us to just play your game, play your game, play your game. The coaches were involved a lot. We just had to have confidence. Our confidence was so built up that even though we were down 2-0 we were able to win."

It cost \$24,000 to take 17 athletes to the Games. Cambridge said almost all of it was covered by community donations.

"We have great gratitude and thank the community for their moral support and financial support," he said.

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