

OMHA U15 Hockey

Birch nets hat-trick+ as Orono U15 Leafs edge Millbrook

Tuesday, Dec 13 – Paced by four goals from Maverick Birch, including the winner with four seconds left on the clock, the Orono U15 Leafs grabbed a 6-5 road win over the Millbrook Stars.

The first period was a fast and furious with the teams combining for five goals. Millbrook opened the scoring in the sixth minute of play. Tyler Broadhagen's solo effort brought the Leafs even. Maverick Birch (assist to William Ford) gave Orono a lead with 1:43 remaining in the period. The Leaf advantage was brief as the Stars scored twice before the end of the frame.

Maverick Birch (unassisted) knotted the score at three after 10 minutes of action in the middle stanza. Millbrook once again grabbed the lead before the end of the period.

The score stood 4-3 for the Stars at the beginning of the final session. Maverick Birch brought Orono even ninety seconds into the period. Stay tuned, Birch still had more to add. Following the see-saw fashion of the match, Millbrook once more took the lead. As the clock ticked towards the game's conclusion, Maverick Birch (assisted by Harry Ford) supersized his hat-trick for the equalizer with 2:04 remaining. Time marched on and a tie game appeared imminent. Imminent but not definite. With a mere four seconds until the final buzzer, Nolan Burrows in combination with Maverick Birch slipped the vulcanized disc past the Millbrook goal line for the game winner.

Maxx Brady backstopped the Orono Leafs in this offensive slugfest. Despite the high scoring affair, Brady is still sporting a goals against average below the 3.00 threshold of excellence in league play.

Not content with dominating the scoring stats line, Maverick Birch also made an appearance on the score-

sheet with a minor penalty early in the third period. Is this the minor hockey equivalent of a Gordie Howe hat-trick?

A scheduled rematch between the Leafs and Stars for Wednesday, Dec 14 in Orono was postponed because of weather. The Leafs now have a hiatus in their league schedule for the Christmas break. They resume Victoria-Durham games with three consecutive games starting Saturday, Jan 14. In the interim, the Leafs make a trek to the Niagara Frontier for the Winter Challenge tournament in Greater Fort Erie (Jan 6-8).