

Bearcat Banter: The Sprint Has Begun

All nine Leagues making up the Canadian Junior Hockey League are fully engaged in post season play.

The goal is simple. Be a League winner and meet up with the Portage Terriers, host of this year's National Championship set for May 11-12 in Portage la Prairie.

Gone are the days of the four regional qualifiers, such as the Fred Page Cup. This is the second year for the ten-team Centennial Cup format.

The MHL's Metalfab playoffs started on March 17. The first MHL team to win twelve games will earn the right to head west to Manitoba.

The Truro Bearcats and Valley Wildcats got their series underway March 19th in Truro. The visitors went home with a 2-1 win, and a strong shot of confidence.

The Bearcats had a wide edge in shots-on-goal, but a veteran goalie was up to the task. Some say he stole the game but the jury is still out on that

claim.

The bottom line was the Bearcats needed to be better. Clearly the powerplay let them down; however, you can't take anything away from the victors.

Monday, in Berwick, the teams were dead even heading to the final period. Neither team was able to find a way to end it in regulation time, so it was off to OT.

Four minutes in, the Bearcats got it done. The series was tied. Game Three was March 22 with Truro playing a strong game and a 3-1 win. Back to Berwick for Game Four, a last second goal to tie and an overtime score to win brought the Wildcats back to a two-all draw in the seven game series. Game Five is in Truro Sunday March 26. See www.themhl.ca for further game scores.

Prior to the start of March 22's game in Truro, the Bible Hill Kinsmen made their annual donations to selected



This enterprising young Bearcat fan, Emmett Moore, held up his sign to grab the attention of Bearcat players during the warm-up. Several players played rock, paper and scissors and Emmett won his pick from a Bearcat. Pictured is Bearcat player Tanner Humber-Dredge. (D.Brown photo)

Charities.

This year \$4,400.00 was dispersed, making the total, after twenty years, an impressive \$91,000.00.

The Bible Hill Kinsmen - Truro Bearcat Partnership is a solid one. Wayne McCormick, a Bearcat Volunteer and a Kins-

man, was instrumental in establishing the Partnership. It continues in his memory.

Hats off to Captain Brendan Bays, for being named First Team All-Star in the Eastlink South Division, an honour well deserved.

Brendan Bays Commits To University of Waterloo

The Truro Bearcats and the University of Waterloo have announced that defenseman and captain Brendan Bays has committed to the Warriors' program for the 2023-24 season. The 20-year-old from Ottawa, Ontario spent the past two seasons in the QMJHL with the Quebec Remparts with one goal and eight assists in 54 games. Bays played his only season in the Maritime Junior Hockey League in 2022-23, registering 53 points in playing all 52 games with Truro.

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Bays finished third in assists and points for defensemen with 45 and 53 respectively and tied with Carter McCluskey for second in team scoring. He was tied for third in powerplay goals among blueliners with seven, sitting one back of Summerside's William Irvine and Yarmouth's Franco Canevari. Bays was named Top Defenseman in October and March and an Honourable Mention in February. He was named to the Eastlink South Team of the Week seven times, including four of the last

five weeks of the season, and was recently named to the Eastlink South All-Star Team.

"As the captain of an organization that has a rich history of professionalism, we know that Brendan will arrive at our program with many of the off-

ice traits that we value," says Waterloo Head Coach Brian Bourque. "On-ice, Brendan has been a tremendous leader this season and has a determination to continue developing. We are excited to have Brendan as part of our program."

The MHL congratulates Bays on his post-secondary commitment.



**#20 Brendan Bays
Ottawa, Ontario
6', 189 lbs.
20 yr old, Defence**

Studies show cows produce more milk when the farmer talks to them. It's a case of in one ear and out the udder.



**Larry
Harrison, MLA**

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