

## BEARCAT BANTER: This Chapter Concludes

March 11, 2024

Well, it's all settled now. The Standings are finalized, and the post-season matchups are set in both divisions and play will continue until March's end.

For the first time in the twenty-seven years since the Bearcat franchise returned to the junior ranks, they're not in the picture.

At the start of March, the Bearcats had three games slated. They needed wins, and some help from others.

At the end of that week, it was clear things didn't go their way. Winning one and losing two just didn't cut it.

March 6, the West Kent Steamers came to town, utilizing quickness and strong transition to claim a 2-1 win.

The Bearcats threw everything but the kitchen sink at them, especially in the final period but came up short.

March 8, in Yarmouth, the Bearcats played a very strong road game to earn a convincing win over the Mariners.

The game of the year for the Bearcats and Pictou County Crushers was set for March 9 at the RECC.

If the Bearcats win, they're in. Unfortunately, the three goals in the first five minutes of the game by the Bearcats weren't enough.

The Crushers wouldn't go away. They chipped away, scoring a pair in the last two minutes of the game for the tie, then won it midway through the OT session. It was dramatic.

Valley needed to beat Pictou County, March 10, to allow

the Bearcats to advance. It didn't happen, ending the Bearcat season.

That's all she wrote, and it is what it is.

So, in the South, it's Summerside vs Yarmouth and Pictou County vs Amherst; in the North, it's Edmundston vs Fredericton and West Kent vs Miramichi. The first team to win twelve games gets all the marbles.

Sport provides many life lessons. Some are easier to accept than others but learn from them and move on.

Hats off to the Bearcats who have aged-out at the junior level and thanks for the contributions: James Beaton, Sam Archibald, Zach Welsh, Merle Putnam, Brendan MacRitchie, Dylan Chisholm, Alex Roode and Alex Nadeau.

The last day of one season is the first of the next.



Our 8 20 year olds. From L to R: Zach Welsh, Alex Nadeau, James Beaton, Brendan MacRitchie, Alex Roode, Dylan Chisholm, Merle Putnam and Sam Archibald.

## Nadeau Awarded Will Sutherland Memorial Scholarship

The Bearcats held their annual year end award banquet March 12th.

The 2024 recipient of the Will Sutherland Award was Team Captain, Alex Nadeau pictured here receiving the Award from Jody Sutherland at the closing awards ceremonies. The Award goes to a Bearcat who demonstrates excellence in hockey skills, is a last year junior and is pursuing his education at an AUS or CIS University.



2023-2024 Captain Alex Nadeau receiving the Will Sutherland Memorial Scholarship from Jody Sutherland.



*The final Player of the week for this season is James Beaton. Beaton collected 28 goals, 41 assists and 145 PIMs in his 3 years as a favourite with the Bearcats.*



#21 James Beaton  
Inverness, NS  
5'10", 180 lbs  
20, Forward

GP	G	A	PTS
52	9	17	26

The Shoreline Journal

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## Nadeau Named To Division All Star Team

March 17, 2024, From the MHL:

Congratulations to our captain, Alex Nadeau who has been named to the Eastlink South Division All-Star Team.

The 20-year-old from Victoriaville, Quebec finished sixth in league scoring with 76 points in 42 games. Nadeau's point per game average of 1.81 was second only to Fredericton's Carter McCluskey. The

Bearcats captain had the fourth-most powerplay goals in the league with eleven and led the team in powerplay points with 23. Nadeau was one of just twelve players to hit the 30-goal mark this season. He had 24 multi-point games and hit the five-point mark in three games. Nadeau had a ten-game assist streak between November and December, which was tied with Pictou

County's Ben Mercer for the longest such streak of the season. He also finished the 2023-24 campaign having scored in seventeen straight road games, which was the longest streak in the MHL. Nadeau was an honourable mention for Top Forward in January and was named to the Eastlink South Team of the Week twice.

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At each Truro Junior A Bearcat game, the Bearcat Ice Crew prepare the carpet for on ice events. Pictured are left to right Al Murphy, Rylen MacPhee and Clayton Parsons. Clayton Parsons has been with the Bearcat Ice Crew since 1997-98.

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