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Bears hunt down Lions for championship banner

By Mark Lidbetter The Suburban Mar 2, 2016



On ice: Jared Lach Kneeling: Justin Hirscheimer, Jordan Znaty, Russell Bienstock, Carter Fersten, Maxwell Levine, Matthew Eiley, Adam Lieblein, Standing: Head Coach: Warren Garfield, Joshua Ray, Evan Shiveck, Matthew Fixman, Owen Fudem, Beck Majdell, Jack Ladenheim, Lewis Epstein, Eden Raffoul, Assistant Head Coach Bruce Garfield
Courtesy of Jeff Fixman

In only their third season, Solomon Schechter Academy's hockey team, the SSA Bears is the first Jewish elementary school to win a championship in the Montreal Elementary School Hockey League. Following a 5-2 semifinal win over the Selwyn House Gryphons the Bears were set for an exciting and adrenaline pumping final game against the LCC Lions. In a nail-biting affair, the SSA Bears won the championship game doubling the Lions by a score of 4-2.

The team which is made up of students in Grades 5 and 6 practices at the Doug Harvey Arena and plays home games at the Samuel Moskovitch Arena. The SSA Bears have the bragging rights for their league which consist of squads from LCC, Selwyn House, Kuper Academy, Royal Vale and Stanislas. The team was initiated by parents and Solomon Schechter Academy's head of school, Mr. Steven Erdelyi who organized the logistics to get the team started.

"We would like to congratulate our team for a successful season filled with teamwork, impressive skills and sportsmanship. A special thank you goes out to the head coach Warren Garfield, and the assistant head coach Bruce Garfield for leading the team to a victorious season," said Mr. Erdelyi.

The team captain is Grade 6 student Matthew Eiley. Helping him are assistant captains Russel Bienstock and Carter Fersten. In the final game, Eiley led off the scoring followed by a goal from Bienstock. Levine scored the game-winning goal and an empty-net goal to clinch the title.

"This was our third season and the program has grown exponentially year over year. The bonding and school spirit has been an important aspect of the program that we emphasize with the team," said coach Garfield.

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