

Marblehead Hollyhock teams advance past first round after exciting wins

The Marblehead Youth Hockey Association (MYHA) Hollyhock U-12 and U-10 teams had exciting, one-goal victories in the first round of the Middlesex Yankee Conference Girls Hockey League playoffs last week.

The Hollyhock U-12 team defeated the Newton Dragons, 6-5 March 28.

Marblehead struck first with a goal as a result of Megan Parthum, Bella Peters and Hadley Wales sparking the offense.

The Hollyhocks went up 2-0 on a goal by Alia Piccinni. But Newton came back with two goals to tie things after one.

Marblehead picked it up again in the second with three goals, while Newton netted one.

Hollyhock goaltender Emily Ernst kept the Dragons in check with many superb saves, and Elena McCloskey, Maddy DiGiovanni, Cassidy Thibodeau, Caroline Corbett and Kendall Brant took care of the offense at the other end.

Newton broke through two more times, but Marblehead showed tenacity to maintain the slim win.

Head Coach Artie DiGiovanni remarked: "The girls played with great determination, and the coaches and parents are all very proud of the effort. We're looking forward to the semifinals."

The Marblehead girls will faceoff against Needham in the semifinals.

U-10 girls secures OT victory

The Hollyhock U-10 team prevailed in overtime, 5-4 over rival Winthrop.

Marblehead jumped out to a 1-0 lead early in the first, but Winthrop quickly evened the score.

Marblehead's Chloe Trudel and Juliette Piersol netted goals to put Marblehead up 3-1 at the end of one.

Winthrop started to take control in the second, but Marblehead withstood the pressure to stay ahead by two. Marblehead then extended the lead early in the third on a goal by Brooke Brennan, who took a great breakout pass by Samantha Clock to begin the scoring play.

The momentum shifted again, however, and Winthrop began its comeback with three goals to send the contest to an extra session. In overtime, the teams traded excellent scoring chances, before Trudel broke free on an end-to-end rush. She then rifled her third goal of the game over the goalie's shoulder for the dramatic win.

Goaltender Kate Santeusanio made big saves throughout. Elle Seller and Taylor Brown were consistent and solid on defense. Forwards Ellie Burdge, Madison Twombly, Lauren Allain and Elizabeth Savage all played exceptionally well.

Head Coach Michael Piersol noted: "This was a true team effort. Every girl gave her best, and everyone contributed in important ways throughout the game, just as they have been doing all season long."

The Hollyhocks will now take on Natick Friday, April 3, in their semifinal round matchup.

The Hollyhocks are an all girls MYHA program. Most of the girls also play on boys Squirt and Pee wee teams, before coming together to form the Hollyhocks.

This season, both the U-12 and U-10 teams participated in the Middlesex Yankee Girls Conference, and both also participated in the annual Cranberry Classic Girls Hockey Tournament on Cape Cod in November.

More information about the Hollyhocks may be found on the Hollyhocks page at marbleheadyouthhockey.com.

The MYHA Hollyhocks co-Directors are Michael Piersol and Karen Wales.

MYHA is one of the town's oldest organized youth sports programs, and it currently has 18 teams and around 200 players. The league offers Learn to Skate and Whack-A-Puck programs beginning in the fall for both boys and girls who are interested in learning about the sport.