



Saint Viator Hockey Team Edges Barrington to Win Scholastic Cup

March 8, 2011



The hockey team celebrates their victory with the fans.

One night after bowing out of the Elite Eight in the state hockey series, Saint Viator's varsity hockey team recovered on Sunday to win the coveted Scholastic Cup, the ultimate championship trophy in the 40-member Chicagoland Metropolitan Hockey League.

It took two overtime periods to do it, but the Lions defeated Barrington High School --- the Metro Central League champions --- 1-0 at the Northbrook Ice Arena to win the title.

Senior Christian DiVito of Hoffman Estates scored the winning goal with two minutes left to play in the 2nd overtime, converting on a pass from senior

scoring partner Ricky Gattone of Addison.

The players rushed on the ice after the game to congratulate DiVito and Gattone, who last fall was a state qualifier in golf.

Head Coach Evan Poulakidas credits the team's overall balance in advancing to the state's highest level.

"With our overall speed and skill level combined with terrific goaltending and solid defense, we have to be considered one of the elite teams in the state," Poulakidas says.

It is the first time since 1978 that Saint Viator has won the Scholastic Cup. The only other time they advanced to the championship game was in 1989, when the Lions finished as runners-up.

This season, the Lions finished their season with a record breaking 48-19-4. Over the last two seasons they have posted a record of 90-37-10.

"It's nice to see them finish their season with a championship to hang their hats on," said Athletic Director Tim Carlson. "They work hard and put in a lot of time on the ice, between playing in two different leagues and mostly competing out of the spotlight.

"But their march to the playoffs has generated a lot of excitement and interest in the team," Carlson added, "and rightly so."

Since hockey is not an IHSA sanctioned sport, hockey is considered a club at Saint Viator, with its own paid coaches and parent-run governing board. Unlike the 25 IHSA athletic teams at the school, the hockey program does not receive any funding from the athletic department.

But student hockey players must adhere to the school's rules of eligibility, as well as those established by the Illinois High School Athletic Association.

"They have always represented the school well," Carlson said, "on and off the ice."