

# CLIPPER SPORTS

## Xtreme plans for next year

By Tony Zerucha

While his team's Hanover Tache Junior Hockey League championship series sweep at the hands of the Steinbach Huskies still stings, Springfield Xtreme head coach Kevin Augustine hopes his team learned some powerful lessons that will bring the cup back to

Oakbank in 2024-25.

On paper, the Xtreme and the Huskies were close. They finished one win apart in the regular season. While the Huskies came into the playoffs on a long winning streak, their last loss was to the Xtreme in late December.

That parity was evident in the series opener on

March 3, which the Huskies won 2-1 in overtime. It continued on March 9, when the teams were tied 2-2 after 20 minutes. Even down 3-0 in the series, the Xtreme fought back to take an early 3-0 lead before succumbing.

"Overall, it was a good year," Augustine said. "We had two players recognized as the league's top goalie and defencemen, respectively. We allowed the second-fewest goals in the league and finished with the second-most wins. However, it certainly was not the ending we wanted."

Augustine said he takes the series loss as a learning moment and hopes the players do as most of the Huskies' core returns in 2024-25.

The coach outlined what changes he hopes to see, beginning at camp this fall.

"Players will need to better themselves individually," Augustine explained. "They will need to adapt and commit to a defence-first concept. Anything less will simply not be good enough."

## Lac du Bonnet Mixed Bonspiel



Photos by Brian Choptain

Congratulations to Cheryl Zawislak, Leon Clegg, Andrea Usackis and John Usackis on winning the A event at the 2024 Lac du Bonnet Mixed Curling Bonspiel held March 15-17 at the Lac du Bonnet Curling Club. A total of 15 teams participated.



B event – Linda Macey, Moe Girard, Annette Usipiuk and Tony Usipiuk.



C event – Chantal Bruchanski, Glenn Reitto, Sharon Inster and Cam Thomson.

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