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Team Manitoba's Tori Williams (centre) and Rachele Bosc (right) love the title trophy and the taste of gold medals, amusing goalie Tara Lacquette.

Bosc's hat trick lifts Manitoba

By Gary Lawless

Midget-age girls beat Ontario side in final

TEAM Manitoba's Rachele Bosc was not to be denied Saturday afternoon at the National Aboriginal Hockey Championships.

Bosc's three-goal performance led Manitoba to a 5-3 win over Ontario South in the girls' final and capped an undefeated week for the home team at the midget-age tournament featuring teams from across the country.

"This was awesome, a lot of fun," said Bosc, a 17-year-old student at Balmoral Hall who has committed to play for the University of Manitoba Bisons next season.

"When we were down 3-1, we just encouraged one another to stay positive. We were outshooting them and we just told one another to keep shooting and to keep pushing."

In the boys' final, Saskatchewan walloped Eastern Door and the North 8-0.

While Bosc was powering her way through the

Ontario South defence, goalie Tara Lacquette kept her team in the game.

"I just told myself that my best would have to be enough and my best was enough," said Lacquette, of Waterhen, who is also slated to be a member of the U of M squad next season.

"This is such an amazing feeling. I've never done anything like this before in my life."

Also scoring for Manitoba were Darion Bruyere and Danica Knockaert. Alley Bero had a pair of goals for Ontario South, with a single going to Karley Cree.

Bosc hopes to have future success on the Max Bell Arena ice at the U of M.

"I hope I can do this again next year. I'm so excited to come and play here," she said.

Tournament organizer Lou Moodie said the event was inspirational for athletes from across the country.

"We had over 900 athletes and lots of parents here," said Moodie, of Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation. "Our banquet had a great atmosphere, and in my mind, the tournament was a success."

"The goal is to bring athletes from across the country together to compete and be with one another."

"We're happy we were given the opportunity to host and that our athletes were able to come to a common place in central Canada."

"This opens doors for a lot of people. It's an opportunity I didn't have as a youth and I'm glad these kids are given this chance."

Team Manitoba went undefeated at the nationals, the first time the home team has ever done so in the eight-year history of the tournament.

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