

Canada's bandy team wins silver

By Ashley Prest

CANADA'S national bandy team has won the silver medal at the 2005 World Bandy Championships in Kazan, Russia, improving on last year's bronze on the world stage.

The Winnipeg-based Team Canada, composed of Manitobans, defeated Netherlands 12-3 on Saturday in the B-group championship.

Morris Glimcher of Winnipeg, the Canadian Bandy Federation president who accompanied the team to Russia, said in an e-mail the Canadians were close to winning the title, but lost a heart-breaker to Belarus in their last group B game. In that game, the score was tied 4-4 after regulation time, but Canada lost

the shootout 3-2.

Belarus went on to beat a winless USA team 6-3 in the relegation round game.

Team Canada forward Ryan Toothill said in an e-mail that the Canadians played hard in the tournament.

"We're all proud to be Canadian, we gave it our all and left nothing on the table, just sad it wasn't gold," said Toothill. "Second place is not bad for a bunch of guys from 'Winterpeg!'"

Bandy is an ice sport best described as a combination of soccer and field hockey. It is played on a surface about the size of a soccer field, usually outdoors, with 11 players per side who wear skates. The goal is a bit smaller than a soccer net and the goalie does not use a stick. Sweden beat Russia 5-2 in the A-pool final yesterday.