

SPORTS

"Quote/unquote"

'The other teams were bigger...but our guys dug deeper.'

— Bulldogs' coach Kevin Dance... see story below

Jr. C Bulldogs claim first Ontario title in thrilling fashion

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Adam Charalambides scored the winning goal midway through the second overtime period as the Halton Hills Bulldogs captured their first-ever Ontario Jr. C Lacrosse League championship with an 11-10 victory over the Clarington Shamrox Sunday in Cornwall.

The 26-1-1 Bulldogs, who lost just once all season, led 9-5 early in the third period before the three-time defending-champion Shamrox rallied to tie the score at nine and force extra time.

The teams traded goals in the first OT period before 17-year-old Charalambides, who scored four times in the game and led the squad in the regular season and play-offs combined with 125 points, potted the winner after Halton Hills had just killed off a Clarington power play.

"It was a great individual effort by Adam," said head coach Kevin Dance.

"He beat the defenceman one on one and I can't remember exactly how it went in. All I saw the mesh move and then we all jumped over the boards. We had a great group of kids. The other teams were bigger and more experienced but our guys dug deeper."

Also scoring for the 'Dogs in the final were Marty Burwell (2), Adam MacKinnon,



The Halton Hills Jr. C Bulldogs chomp on their gold medals earned with a dramatic 11-10 victory over the Clarington Shamrox on Sunday to claim the Meredith Cup, emblematic of the OJCLL championship. Team members (front, from left) are: Dean Daquano, Phil Hill, Cody Menzies, Adam Dobis, Drew Coleman, Adam MacKinnon, Tyler Anderson, Ben Nicolucci. Back row: Assistant manager Michelle Thompson, Jacob Stewart, Matthew Goldmann, Brodie Briscoe, Issac Madarasz, Quinn Harding, Adam Charalambides, assistant coach Steve Fink, Jordan Brown, Kyle Moore, Kurtis Oldham, Reece Clare, Marty Burwell, Connor Mayner, Mike Nicolucci, manager/trainer Lisa Cartman, head coach Kevin Dance. Absent: Matthew Hodgins.

Submitted photo

Cody Menzies, Kyle Moore, Ben Nicolucci and Mike Nicolucci. Drew Coleman earned the win in goal and Burwell added four assists.

The West Division-champion Bulldogs, who lost to Clarington in the 2012 championship game 8-6, swept through the OJCLL's Final Four weekend in Cornwall, defeating Hamilton 7-2, host Cornwall 9-3 and Clarington 8-5 before beating the Shamrox in the title game for the Meredith Cup.

"(The Shamrox) were very strong with the five guys they used on offence and they had a lot of opportunities, but our 'D' outplayed them," added Dance.

"Sure, we scored a lot of goals, but our defence and goaltending was the main reason we won it."

The final game wasn't without its controversy, however. In the second period, with Halton Hills leading 5-2, Charalambides got into an altercation with the Clarington netminder. Each team was as-

essed a fighting major and game misconduct, but Charalambides escaped detection by the officials, and instead, Bulldog Matthew Goldmann was ejected.

Halton Hills's Matthew Hodgins suffered a broken shoulder and partial dislocation of the joint after being cross-checked by a Clarington player during the game, but he's expected to make a full recovery.



SAMUEL HAINES

Local lacrosse players shine for Ontario

Whether it's the field or indoor version of the game, the Halton Hills Minor Lacrosse Association is contributing aplenty to the fortunes of Team Ontario again this summer in various age groups.

Four Bulldogs' products recently celebrated national championship wins for this province and a couple of others have been called on by Team Ontario to play in other big tournaments this year.

Goaltender Drayden Patey of Georgetown and Acton's Bret Allonby, who plays the transition role, helped Team Ontario earn gold medals after their 7-6 overtime victory over Team Iroquois in the final of the STX Midget La-

crosse Championship of Canada at the annual festival in Whitby.

Both are 16-year-olds. For Patey, this is his second Canadian title after winning as a bantam for Ontario two years ago and he was outstanding in the gold medal game against the Iroquois.

Allonby scored four times during the tournament, played strong defence and created chances for teammates with quick passes after possession changes for Team Ontario.

Fourteen-year-old Jessica DiGirolamo was a dominant force at the recent Female National Box Lacrosse Bantam Championships in Halifax, leading the tournament

in scoring with 12 goals and six assists, including a pair of markers and a helper in Ontario's 5-2 win over B.C. in the final.

The Mississauga resident played for the Halton Hills Bulldogs bantam A boys' squad this summer and was named captain of the provincial squad.

Goaltender Samuel Haines of Georgetown won all five games he started for Team Ontario at the recent Canadian Lacrosse Association peewee box championships held in Whitby. The 12-year-old was in his first year representing Team Ontario and started playing



TRISTAN USHER

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