

SPORTS & LEISURE

Fall to Gaels 11-7 Game Bulldogs facing elimination

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

Having played well in the first two games of their playoff series with the mighty Green Gaels of Clarington, the Halton Hills Bulldogs still have nothing to show for their efforts and faced elimination Thursday evening in Bowmanville.

The undefeated Green Gaels led the best-of-5 Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B Eastern Conference final 2-0 heading into game three on their home floor last night (Thursday). Check the website www.independentfreepress.com on Friday for an update.

In Georgetown on Wednesday, the Gaels threatened to turn game two into a rout after building a 4-1 first-period advantage, but the Bulldogs showed some spunk at the contest's midway point, as the teams would combine for nine goals in less than 10 minutes.

Halton Hills came back to tie

the score at six, before the visitors delivered another timely goal with just eight-tenths of a second left in the middle frame.

"That was pretty demoralizing at the end of the second period, but again they capitalized on one mistake, and what are you going to do?" said Bulldog captain Matt Velten.

"We dominate at some points in the game and then we take five minutes off. They take advantage of that every chance they get. We haven't seemed to get many bounces and they're frustrating us for sure."

Veteran Braden Artem made his return to the Halton Hills lineup from an arm injury and the assistant captain got his side rolling in their five-goal second period. However, the 28-0 Green Gaels countered every Bulldog advance with a goal shortly afterward and were in complete control of the third period.

Andrew Marcoux and Pat Saunders notched two goals apiece for the 'Dogs, with J.J.



Clarington Green Gaels' goalie Zack Higgins appears to have lost his head in making this save against Halton Hills Bulldogs Braden Artem Wednesday at Mold-Masters SportsPlex. Artem was back in the Bulldogs' lineup after sitting out almost a month due to injury and nearly scored on this breakaway. A goal from Artem and another inspired effort by the Bulldogs went for naught as the Green Gaels prevailed 11-7 to take a 2-0 lead in the best-of-5 OLA Jr. B Eastern Conference championship series heading into Thursday night's game in Bowmanville.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Laforet, Artem and Reed Board Saturday at 8 p.m., with the fifth game in Bowmanville on Sunday netting one each.

Should the Bulldogs extend the series, game four will be at the Mold-Masters SportsPlex

Saturday at 8 p.m., with the fifth game in Bowmanville on Sunday night.

Six Nations downed Windsor 6-5 on Wednesday to win the

OLA Jr. B Western Conference title in a three-game sweep.

(Eamonn Maher can be reached at emaher@independentfreepress.com)

Local residents Will Cook (left) and Brad Dilks were in Georgia this week for the under-16 boys' World Series as pitchers for Team Ontario. Although the team didn't make it through to the playoff round, both Georgetown Baseball Association products are looking to pursue careers on the diamond.



Photo by Eamonn Maher

Georgetown hurlers sharp for Team Ontario in Georgia

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A couple of Georgetown teenagers who've grown up playing baseball together represented Team Ontario this week at the Continental Amateur Baseball Association under-16 boys' World Series in Marietta, Georgia.

Pitchers Brad Dilks and Will Cook are members of the Ontario squad in the 38-team tournament, which began Sunday with the first of five round-robin games.

After a promising 2-1 start for the Ontarians—the only Canadian team to qualify for the tourney—they dropped their last two pool games,

and with a 2-3 mark, didn't advance to the playoff round.

Still, the local duo had strong individual performances and picked up their team's only wins.

Cook tossed five shutout innings in an 8-4 victory over the DBA Bandits of Michigan on Tuesday, while Dilks earned the W in Team Ontario's 6-3 triumph over the Indiana Bandits to open the tournament. Losses to Georgia's EC Titans (13-2), the Cincinnati Flames (7-6) and the Illiana, Illinois Cardinals prevented Team Ontario from moving on to the double-knockout championship rounds.

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