

NOT - SO - FRIENDLY RIVALRY



Halton Hills Bulldogs player Jayson Crawford lowers the boom on Oakville Buzz forward Keyan McQueen during Ontario Lacrosse Association junior B action Friday at Oakville's Toronto Rock Athletic Centre. McQueen and the Buzz had the last laugh, however, whipping their South East Division rivals 11-3. For more on the game, see page 31.

| photo by Graham Paine — Oakville Beaver — @Halton_PhotoG

Lewis named MVP as Canada qualifies for volleyball worlds

Led by T.A. Blakelock high school grad Dan Lewis, the Canadian men's volleyball team qualified Monday for this summer's Federation Internationale de Volleyball world championships.

Canada earned its berth at worlds with a 25-14, 25-15, 25-16 victory over Costa Rica in the final of the NORCECA Men's World Championship Qualifying (Pool Q) tournament at Mississauga's Hershey Centre. Lewis, a 38-year-old libero who has been with the national team for more than a decade and also plays professionally in Europe, was named tournament MVP.

The world championships are scheduled for Aug. 30-Sept. 21 in Poland.

Canada, which fell one win short of qualifying for the 2012 Summer Olympics, is currently ranked No. 11 in the world following a fifth-place finish in last year's elite World League. The team will open 2014 World League play May 31 against Finland in Calgary.

"(The world qualifier was) a good opportunity to showcase where we are right now, and prepare for World League," Lewis said.

The Canadian women's team also won its qualifier Monday, defeating Mexico 25-16, 25-19, 25-17. This year marks the first time both the Canadian men and women were able to qualify for worlds on home soil.



Dan Lewis

Oakville blueliner feted at RBC Cup

Oakville resident Michael Prapavessis was named the top defenceman at last week's RBC Cup national junior A hockey championship in Vernon, B.C.

The Toronto Lakeshore Patriots blueliner earned the award based on his play in Lakeshore's four preliminary-round games.

The Patriots were the only squad not to advance to the semifinals of the five-team competition after posting a 1-3 record in the round robin, but it was no fault of Prapavessis. The 18-year-old scored a dramatic game-tying goal with 7.5 seconds remaining in regulation time in the Patriots' final game of the tournament, a contest Lakeshore needed to win to avoid elimination. The Vernon Vipers went on to win the game in overtime, however.

Prapavessis finished the tournament with two goals and an assist.

Fellow Oakville residents Doug Bonar and Nathan Feric also collected points during the RBC Cup. Feric had a goal and an assist (the helper coming on Prapavessis's equalizer against Vernon) and Bonar had an assist.

Former Oakville Blades goaltender Evan Buitenhuis started all of Lakeshore's games, stopping 121 of 131 shots and posting a 2.40 goals-against average.

Lakeshore won its first-ever Ontario Junior Hockey League and Dudley Hewitt Cup (Central Canadian championship) titles this season.

Saskatchewan's Yorkton Terriers — who the Patriots whipped 5-1 during the preliminary round — won the RBC Cup title Sunday night with a 4-3 overtime victory over the Central Canada Hockey League's Carleton Place Canadians.

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