

Daunting task awaits, but Buzz aiming high

Team seeks to open OLA East semifinal with weekend sweep in tough environment

by Jon Kuiperij
Beaver Sports Editor

As the Oakville Buzz prepares for a pair of playoff games this weekend in an arena where it has lost its last five visits, you might think the Buzz would be happy with a split.

Mike Bentivegna, however, doesn't see it that way.

"(Setting the bar high) is the way we've done it all year," said the Buzz's first-year head coach, whose club will open its Ontario Lacrosse Association junior B East Conference semifinal series Saturday in Akwesasne, a Mohawk territory located along the borders of Ontario, Quebec and New York. "We're going up there expecting to win two games.

"(The Indians) are a great team. I'll give them all the credit in the world. But we're going up there for two wins. We're not going up there to split."

That seems like a tall order. The Indians have won 38 of their last 42 games overall at A'nowara'ko:wa Arena (known as the



Oakville Buzz captain Colton Watkinson (in white) powers past a Newmarket Saints opponent during the teams' Ontario Lacrosse Association junior B first-round playoff series. Oakville won the best-of-five series, 3-1, and will face the Akwesasne Indians in the East Conference semifinals, beginning Saturday

| photo by Eric Riehl — Oakville Beaver — @Halton_Photog

Turtle Dome). They've also claimed their last four post-season home games against the Buzz.

It means opening the best-of-five series on the road — the higher-seeded Buzz had the option of hosting the first two games, then playing the remainder of the series in Akwesasne the following weekend — wasn't necessarily a no-brainer.

Then again, the road has to go through Akwesasne at some point. Oakville was home for the first two games of its 2011

and 2012 playoff series versus the Indians, winning the opener before losing the following three games on both occasions.

As high as Bentivegna's hopes might be, he said he's also prepared for the possibility of coming home in an 0-2 hole and having to win three in a row at Toronto Rock Ath-

letic Centre.

"I would feel comfortable having to win three at home," the coach said. "It's not what we want to do, but we can make adjustments, break down how we're being

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