

SPORTS & LEISURE

Game Jags fall in final

By **HERB GARBUTT**
Metroland Media Group

When the Christ the King Jaguars junior boys soccer team returned home from its first tournament of the season, playing in the Halton final had to seem like a far-off dream.

"All the players from Oakville were walking up wearing their (rep) league jackets," said Jaguars goalkeeper Robert Chita. "We lost all our games by 6-0."

The Jags' starting lineup was largely comprised of house-league players, particularly on the defensive side. They also began the year without leading scorer Luke Engineer and midfielder Scott Sheahan, who joined the team after completing the badminton season. It was after a 1-0 loss to Notre Dame in the next tournament, things started to come together.

When league play began, CtK ran off six straight wins and finished the regular season with a 6-0-3 mark, good for first place in the Richardson Division.

In Friday's Halton final in Milton, the Jaguars went into the half deadlocked 0-0 but the Loyola Hawks, the top team in the Volpe Division, finally broke through. Loyola scored early in the second half and would add two more en route to a 3-1 win.

Christ the King was shooting for its first Halton junior boys' soccer championship, particularly after they routed the defending champion Assumption Crusaders 4-0 in the quarter-finals.

"When we won the quarters, we were confident we could win it all," Chita said.

CtK followed that up with a 1-0 win over Bishop Reding in the semis, setting up a final with the Halton's only two undefeated teams.

Loyola would get one early in the second half, though, as Juan Santana headed a cross home to make it 1-0. Chita made a good save but the rebound went right to Nick Hache, who put it in the back of the net for a 2-0 lead.

The Jaguars would reverse the momentum midway through the half and their efforts were finally rewarded when Engineer slipped the ball past the Loyola goalie and inside the far post to cut the lead in half.

But Loyola would seal the game with a kick that curled into the top right corner to restore the two-goal advantage late in the game.



Danielle Canhoto of Christ the King's Jaguars brings down a pass in front of a Nelson Lords' defender during their Halton high school junior girls' soccer championship match Friday in Milton. After taking an early 1-0 lead, the Jags had their superb season end with a 3-1 loss.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Lady Jags bow out to Nelson Lords

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Fitting, that on the day the 2010 World Cup got underway, Christ the King's Jaguars would open the scoring in their Halton championship match with a goal that would have made David Beckham proud.

Midfielder Nicole Waters struck a free kick from about 40 yards away from the Nelson Lords' goal that sailed over the fingertips of goalie Salena Desjardine and into the top of the net, giving the 8-1-0 Jags a 1-0 lead over the 8-0-1 Lords in the Halton Secondary School Athletic Association junior girls' final.

"I've never seen a goal like it and I've been at CtK for six years. It was fantastic," said Jaguars' coach Daniela Orlando.

Unfortunately for Christ the King's juniors, who last won the Halton title in 2006, it was their only goal of the afternoon as the Lords scored three times in the second half to earn their first junior

crown since 2003.

The two teams met twice earlier this season in tournament play and both games ended in draws, with the Jaguars looking like the stronger side through the first half last Friday.

But the Lords equalized off a goalmouth scramble from a corner kick shortly after the break and got their own miracle strike soon after, as utility player Ashley Facenda's free kick from just inside midfield took a crazy bounce over CtK goalie Victoria Debrincat into the net.

After that, Nelson's towering back line snuffed out most of the Jags' scoring attempts, with Waters often double and triple-teamed.

"The girls went out strong and played right to the end, but Nelson was hungrier in the second half," added Orlando.

"It was unfortunate, but it was a great season for us regardless. Our goal was to make it to the Halton final and it would have been nice to win it. We're still very proud of the girls."

Gaels nip Bulldogs

Three wins in their final three regular-season games would break a franchise record for the Halton Hills Bulldogs as they prepare for next week's Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B playoffs.

The 15-2-0 Bulldogs will settle for second spot in the OLA's Eastern Conference standings for the second year in a row after letting a victory over the undefeated Green Gaels of Clarington in Bowmanville slip away in the third period on Thursday evening.

They rebounded at home Saturday, however, racking up a season-high offensive output in a 14-4 trouncing of the Markham Ironheads at the Alcott Arena.

Last year's edition of the 'Dogs finished the regular campaign with a 17-2-1 mark and ended up bowing out to the eventual Ontario-champion Gaels in a thrilling East final. For the first two periods Thursday, Halton Hills was in control, taking a 5-3 lead into the final 20 minutes.

But the 17-0-0 Green Gaels broke out with five goals in an eight-minute span to secure an 8-6 triumph. First star Ethan O'Connor, Shane Scott and Brendan MacDonald had two goals apiece for the Bulldogs.

Against 4-12-0 Markham, Scott netted four goals and rookie Seth Laidlaw earned his first Jr. B hat trick. Brendan MacDonald (2), Jordan Dance, Mike Licata, Tyler Ferreira and Mike MacDonald also scored.

The Bulldogs host Toronto Beaches Thursday at 8 p.m., followed by a trip to Mimico Friday night and a home date with Mississauga Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

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