



BULLDOG PLAYOFF PREVIEW

Special Pullout Section

Youth is served for this year's Bulldogs

By EAMONN MAHER

Staff Writer

With several of their top players having moved on to the Jr. A level over the past couple of years, the Halton Hills Jr. B Bulldogs have been forced to draw from the minor lacrosse ranks to reload the roster.

And despite fielding a rookie-laden lineup in 2010, the Bulldogs came within one win of breaking their franchise record for most victories in a season, settling for a 17-3-0 mark in the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Eastern Conference, second only to the undefeated Green Gaels.

The Bulldogs were led in scoring this season by 21-year-olds Shane Scott and Nic Grasby, but a number of rookies, including the feisty Jordan Dance and Brampton's Tyler Ferreira, will likely be called upon for full-time duty by Halton Hills' Jr. A affiliate in Brampton in the near future.

Goaltenders Ryan Kelly and Dusty Hanzelka were also among the top per-

formers in the entire Jr. B loop.

In the first round of playoffs, the 'Dogs had a little trouble in game one with the Orillia Kings but eventually swept the series, and will now face a much tougher test in round two against the 16-4-0 Newmarket Saints, who eliminated the Founders Cup-host Mimico Mountaineers in four games.

Halton Hills has knocked out Newmarket the past two post-seasons but suffered their first loss of the regular season to the Saints last month and will need to be at their best to get another crack at the Green Gaels and see who emerges from the East in 2010.

"We're fortunate to have young players who have adapted to the junior game quicker than most have and in the first round we were pleased with how they progressed in each game. Newmarket is a well-balanced team and it's going to be a challenge for us," said fifth-year Bulldogs' head coach Blaine McCauley.

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OLA Jr. B East Conference

Best-of-five semifinal series

Game 1

Saturday, July 10 @ Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

Game 2

Friday, July 16 @ Newmarket, 8 p.m.

Game 3

Saturday, July 17 @ Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

x-Game 4

Monday, July 19 @ Newmarket, 8 p.m.

x-Game 5

Wednesday, July 21 @ Georgetown, 8 p.m.

x-if necessary



Dylan Gilbert of the Halton Hills Bulldogs fends off an Orillia Kings' defender during their opening-round Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B playoff series, won by the 'Dogs in three straight games. The 20-year-old Gilbert was picked up in a late-season trade with the Oakville Buzz and has added some scoring and size up front for Halton Hills, putting up four goals and six assists in the Orillia series.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

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