

Bulldogs headed to Ontario Jr. B final

Local squad rallies from 2-0 hole to dispatch Green Gaels and move on to title series against Elora Mohawks

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Making their second appearance in the provincial Jr. B lacrosse finals in the past three years, the Halton Hills Bulldogs feel confident they'll be on the winning side this time around.

For one thing, they won't have to face the powerhouse Six Nations Rebels again, and home floor will be in the Bulldogs' favour when the Elora Mohawks come to Georgetown Friday night to begin the best-of-5 final series.

Game time at the Alcott Arena is 8 p.m.

The Bulldogs advanced to the best-of-5 Ontario Lacrosse Association championship with a stunning comeback series victory over the Green Gaels of Clarington in the Eastern Conference final, clinched with a 6-4 win in Bowmanville last Sunday.

Seven Bulldogs remain from the 2008 team that lost in four games to Six Nations, which included a memorable Halton Hills' win in Ohsweken that triggered a full-scale, post-game brawl.

Head coach Blaine McCauley said that experience will come in handy against an Elora squad that knocked off the previously-unbeaten Rebels in the Western Conference championship this past weekend.

"You don't get many chances at a situation like this. We've developed into an organization that's been in the East finals the last four years and now it's time to get over that hump and go to the Founders Cup (national championship tournament in Etobicoke Aug. 17-22)," he said.

"I think this time we'll be better prepared and I know that the guys who were disappointed after losing two years ago are excited to get another opportunity."

The Bulldogs finished the regular season at 17-3-0 to nose out the 16-3-1 Mohawks by a point for home-floor advantage in the provincial final and both teams are 9-3 in the post-season.

It's the second straight year the Mohawks have made it to the OLA championship, having been swept by the Green Gaels last summer.

McCauley's side is riding the momentum of rallying back against the Gaels from a 2-0 series deficit for the first time in franchise history, posting three wins in four days over a Clarington team that went undefeated in the regular season and lost just twice in the playoffs before facing Halton Hills.

"We just wanted it more and the whole team has been pitching in, younger guys, older guys, and our goalie (Ryan Kelly) has been amazing," said 17-year-old Jordan Dance, who netted the winner in the 'Dogs' 6-5 win in game four and added a hat trick in the series-clinching victory Sunday.

"Elora has a pretty good team and you can't count anybody out when you've gone this far. Whether it's Six Nations or Elora, we're going to come out and play our game."

Fans can show their support for the Bulldogs by wearing white for Friday's opening game or buy purchasing a \$5 limited edition Ontario Jr. B Finals "White Out" t-shirt.

Visit the website www.haltonhills-bulldogs.com for more info.



JORDAN DANCE



Goalie Ryan Kelly was mobbed by his Halton Hills teammates after a suspenseful 6-4 victory on Sunday in Bowmanville over the host Green Gaels that secured the 2010 Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B Eastern Conference championship title. Down 2-0 in the best-of-5 series, the Bulldogs roared back with three straight wins and will now face the Elora Mohawks for the Ontario championship.

Photo by Eamonn Maher



OLA Jr. B Championship (best-of-five final series)

- Game 1
Friday, Aug. 6 @ Georgetown, 8 p.m.
- Game 2
Sunday, Aug. 8 @ Elora, 7 p.m.
- Game 3
Tuesday, Aug. 10 @ Georgetown, 8 p.m.
- x-Game 4
Friday, Aug. 13 @ Elora, 8 p.m.
- Game 5
Saturday, Aug. 14 @ Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- x-if necessary

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