

SPORTS & LEISURE

Heelis, town revel in Attack win

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Everyone loves a parade, and things went a little bonkers Sunday night in Owen Sound.

The Attack won its first Ontario Hockey League championship in its 22-year history in the Scenic City with a 3-2 overtime win in Mississauga earlier in the afternoon over the favoured Majors to set off a celebration that lasted long into the night.

And Georgetown's Liam Heelis played a big role in the victory, getting two assists on goals in the seventh-and-deciding game of the series by rookie linemate Jarrod Maidens, including the OT clincher just three minutes into extra time.

It's estimated that at least half the crowd at the sold-out Hershey Centre for game seven was backing the Attack and thousands of Owen Sound residents lined the streets and waited at the arena for the team's bus to return home Sunday night.

"It was crazy. Fans were lined up in their driveways right from Flesherton (along Highway 10) and in Markdale a guy had this huge sign on his lawn that said, 'Attack, Got 'er done.' Then we got to the arena and it was full even though there wasn't a game going on. It was so



LIAM HEELIS

cool. I think we were even more popular than Santa Claus with the parade they had for us—it was the coolest thing. It's what I played my whole life for, something like this."

The overage centre said Monday afternoon the team has had time to savour the epic win and is now ready to focus on playing in the Memorial Cup, with the Attack set to open the four-team tourney Saturday against the Western Hockey League-champion Kootenay Ice.

They'll also face the Quebec winners, the St. John Sea Dogs, on Monday evening and finish up the round-robin segment of the tournament against the host Mississauga St. Michael's Majors on Wednesday Sept. 25.

"We don't know too much about the other two teams. Kootenay has beaten some top-ranked teams to get here and St. John has only lost seven games all season, so it's going to be tough," the 6-foot-1, 190-pound Heelis added.

"But we've faced a lot of adversity through the season and the team's done a great job of having guys take on certain roles when someone was out of the lineup and step up in key situations. We've been proving everyone wrong all year and the Memorial Cup will be another opportunity to show people what we can do."



Having a ball (hockey)

Four-year-old Nikolas John lafrate practised his ball handling skills at the opening day of the Halton Hills Minor Ball Hockey League at Memorial Arena earlier this month. The new league is affiliated with the Ontario Ball Hockey Association and will have teams from the squirt to bantam/midget divisions playing mostly on Sunday afternoons until July. For more info, visit the website www.hhmbhl.com.

Photo by Jon Borgstrom

Tips from a champ

Toronto Rock captain Colin Doyle stopped by Holy Cross elementary school last week to speak with students and perform tricks as part of the National Lacrosse League club's School House Rock program. Holy Cross student Daniel Heelis got some tips during this demonstration. Doyle and Acton native Sandy Chapman then went out and claimed the Rock's first Champion's Cup title since 2005 on Sunday in Toronto with an 8-7 victory over the Washington Stealth.

Photo by Eamonn Maher



Red-hot Jr. B Bulldogs extend winning streak to five games

A pair of 9-4 victories over the weekend has extended the Halton Hills Bulldogs' win streak to five games in Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B loop.

Blake Kenny, Dylan Gilbert and Pete Laidlaw had two goals apiece in Saturday night's win over the Markham Ironheads, who outshot the hosts 55-53.

Call-up Sean Terry, Jamie Batten and

Justin Reid added single markers and Dustin Hanzelka earned the W in goal.

Leading-scorer Kenny had a hat trick in Friday's road triumph over the Newmarket Saints. Brad Kri (2), Reid (2), Terry and Pete Laidlaw rounded out the offence and Ryan Kelly was the winning goaltender.

This week, the 'Dogs will visit Mimico Friday to take on the 0-6 Mountaineers

and have another divisional matchup against the 3-4 Mississauga Tomahawks Saturday at the Alcott Arena at 7:30 p.m.

In Jr. C action, Halton Hills won its first two games last week after dropping the season opener to first-place Caledon 4-2.

The Bulldogs downed Fergus 12-9 in Acton last Wednesday on goals by Brandon Clelland (2), Paul Davison (2), Kyle Moore,

Chris Haynes, Mitchell Christopher, Jeff Cartman, Tom Harding, Sean Terry, Keegan Witton and Philip Romanet.

Moore's third goal of the night was the winner Thursday as Halton Hills edged the host Wilmot Wild 9-8 in overtime.

Witton (2), Patrick Reay, Romanet, Cartman and Harding also found net.

Tyler Stone was in goal for both wins.



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