

SPORTS & LEISURE

Bulldogs, Green Gaels split first two games

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Any thoughts the Halton Hills Bulldogs might have had about spending the Civic Holiday long weekend away from a sweltering-hot arena were dashed by the Green Gaels of Clarington Saturday night.

After the second-place 'Dogs handed the top-ranked Gaels their first home loss of the season last Thursday—a 12-9 result—Clarington came back looking like a different side in game two Saturday, grinding out an 8-3 victory in front of about 500 spectators at Alcott Arena in Georgetown.

Game three of the best-of-5 Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse League East Conference championship series is set for the Garnet B. Rickard Recreation Complex in Bowmanville Thursday at 8 p.m.

Game four will be played Saturday at Alcott Arena beginning at 7:30 p.m. If a fifth-and-deciding game is needed, it will take place in Bowmanville Sunday at 8 p.m.

Despite outshooting the Gaels 35-34, the Bulldogs managed only a pair of markers by Seth Laidlaw and another by his brother Luke as the visitors tightened up their defensive strategy following the dozen goals given up in the series opener.

“(The Gaels) came in and did a good job in our building after we stole one in theirs,



Clarington Green Gaels' diminutive forward Adam Kelusky skirmishes with Halton Hills Bulldogs Brandon Clelland (left) and Justin Rasmussen during their Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse League playoff game Saturday at the Alcott Arena. The Gaels grabbed an early lead and went on to an 8-3 victory.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

so we'll just have to go down there Thursday and do it again,” said Bulldogs' head coach Blaine McCauley.

“We weren't expecting a short series and we knew this was going to be a good challenge for us. The first two games were kind of feeler-out games and now I think both teams will settle into the series. We play them every year in the playoffs and

it's always a tough battle, so people can expect to see some great lacrosse these next couple of games.”

The Bulldogs sorely missed the physical presence of 21-year-old Dylan Gilbert up front and Leland de Langley on defence as both were out with injuries, while the Gaels also had three of their key regulars absent from the lineup.

In game one, Seth Laidlaw netted the first of his two goals on the evening short-handed just over two minutes into the game and the visitors would go on to hold intermission leads of 5-2 and 10-5, outshooting the hosts 40-39.

Jayson Crawford (2), Chris Haynes (2), Connor Sellars, Peter Laidlaw, Jordan Dance, Luke Laidlaw, Shawn Stringer and Brendan MacDonald also tallied for the Bulldogs, with Ryan Kelly earning the win in goal.

In the OJBL's West Conference final, the Six Nations Rebels came back from a 7-2 second-period deficit Sunday night to beat the Mohawks in Elora 11-10 and now lead the best-of-5 matchup 2-0.

NOTES: The OLA Jr. A awards were announced on the weekend and two former Bulldogs were recognized. Michael Burke received the Dennis McIntosh Award for league MVP and the Jim Veltman Award as the most outstanding player. The Brampton Excelsior was also named a first-team all-star, while Georgetown's J.J. Laforet made the second team all-stars as a defenceman for the Excels in his last year of junior eligibility...The Halton Hills Jr. C Bulldogs began their post-season Monday night at home to Fergus in game one of their best-of-5 OLA East Conference semifinal. Game two will also be played in Acton Wednesday at 8 p.m.

Tennis club ready to celebrate new name and new courts

By **CYNTHIA GAMBLE**
Staff Writer

The newly-named Halton Hills Tennis Club is excited about its move to the Gellert Centre where six new lit courts will be built this year.

After 30-plus years as the Gordon Alcott Tennis Club, the name change was made in anticipation of the move.

“We looking to new chapter in our history as the Halton Hills Tennis Club,” said president John Dallison. “We feel the Halton Hills Tennis Club more clearly defines our ongoing commitment to the entire community.”

Dallison said there is an upward trend in interest and participation in the sport. However, it does put pressure on the club to accommodate that demand on the current

four Gordon Alcott courts.

“We do our level best to never turn anybody away, and everybody gets a chance to play,” said Dallison.

The planned six lit courts at Gellert will accommodate the current demand, plus look to the future to deal with the future growth, said Dallison.

“We are very excited at the prospect of relocating to the Gellert Centre in the spring of 2012,” he said. “The inclusion of tennis to the existing sports and recreational opportunities already to available to all residents would be a significant enhancement to our community.”

Halton Hills council approved a contract to Pacific Paving Ltd. of Mississauga for



JOHN DALLISON

\$574,630 to construct the courts. And \$85,433 to Ducon Utilities of Burlington to install the lighting.

There is a shortfall of \$221,276 in the Town budget to pay for the new courts, resulting from the removal of earth stockpiled from the Gellert Centre's construction, and the rerouting of storm drainage and sewer infrastructure for the next phase of the Centre. Extra costs associated with asphalt, electrical supplies and labour have also upped the budget.

The Town will take the money from reserves, and cost savings elsewhere.

With the addition of the six new tennis courts, there would be a total of 15 courts in the community, which achieves the standard of one court for every 4,000 residents.

But the Halton Hills Tennis Club (HHTC) is already preparing for phase two—two more courts and a dome over four existing courts for winter tennis.

According to HHTC data, it is predicted there will be approximately 1,000 tennis players by 2021 (its membership stands about 320 now), and close to 1,500 by 2031.

The club is planning a \$50,000 fundraising campaign to pay for more coaches, instructors, new equipment and storage facilities. With these funds, the club will expand the junior program and address the increased interest in the sport with education programs.

With the construction of the tennis courts, and the soccer field at Trafalgar Sports Park, the Mold-Masters SportsPlex site will be available to begin construction on the new arenas in the spring of 2012.



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