

# SPORTS & LEISURE

## Rebels prevail over Bulldogs; series ends in brawl



Emotions reached the boiling point with less than two minutes to go in the game during the fifth-and-deciding contest between the host Six Nations Rebels and the Halton Hills Bulldogs Friday night in the Ontario Jr. B lacrosse championship series. With the Rebels clinching the provincial title after a 10-7 victory, several fights broke out on the floor and the officials stopped the game with 1:53 remaining in the third period. Six Nations begins play today (Tuesday) at the Founders Cup Canadian Jr. B lacrosse championship tournament in Saskatoon.

*Photo by Eamonn Maher*

By **EAMONN MAHER**  
Staff Writer

In a tooth-and-nail battle between two evenly matched teams, it seemed inevitable that this year's Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse League championship would not end on friendly terms.

The Six Nations Rebels scored a 10-7 home victory Friday night over the defending Canadian-champion Halton Hills Bulldogs in the fifth-and-deciding game of the series, earning a trip to this week's Founders Cup tournament in Saskatoon.

After the Rebels scored their 10th goal with under two minutes remaining in the third period on a two-man advantage, it became apparent that the two teams were in for a replay of the brawl that marred game three of the 2008 Ontario championships in Six Nations.

Scrumming escalated into fights and after five minutes of chaos, the teams were finally separated and the officials decided to let the final 1:53 run out.

The Bulldogs, who at one point held a 2-1 lead in the series, were held scoreless through the last half of the contest for the second straight game, after coming back in the second period from three goals down to tie the Rebels 7-7.

Outshooting Six Nations 45-43 on the evening, Halton Hills also scored four power-play goals but couldn't solve Rebels' goalkeeper Don Alton in the clutch.

Afterward, Bulldogs' head coach Blaine McCauley was furious with the refereeing crew of Brent Coulombe and Ryan Fowler as Halton Hills was assessed two minor penalties with just under three minutes left in regulation time.

"We battled right to the end and it's hard to take when the refs don't give you a chance to win the game," McCauley said.

"I'm proud of the way our guys played in a tough environ-

ment. After all the stuff that went on during the game, to call two chintzy penalties at the end, there's no consistency. We're no angels and we don't make excuses. The referees lost control of the game. The circumstances were similar to when we were down there in '08, and now we're going to be pro-active in making sure that the (Ontario Lacrosse Association) is very aware of everything that happened."

Brendan MacDonald (2), Luke Laidlaw (2), Jordan Dance, Seth Laidlaw and Chris Haynes had the Bulldog goals in front of over 1,600 spectators in game five at the Iroquois Lacrosse Arena.

Game four will be viewed as an opportunity lost for Halton Hills, which led 9-7 midway through the contest and from then on were blanked 6-0 by the Rebels, outshot 52-39.

The Bulldogs can take consolation in appearing in the Ontario finals three out of the last four seasons, winning it last year in Etobicoke. Five players—Blake Kenny, Shawn Stringer, Brad Mazzocato, Thomas Harding and Dylan Gilbert—are graduating, leaving 22 possible returnees for next season.

"It's tough when you're one game away from going to the national championships and have to go home, especially after all these kids sacrificed this summer to make it this far," McCauley added.

"We're excited that we can take another run at it next year with who we have coming back."

The Halton Hills Jr. C Bulldogs are still alive in the playoffs and have qualified for the league's final-four championship tournament this weekend in Bowmanville with Peterborough, host Clarington and Cornwall.

They defeated Wilmot 6-4 Thursday on goals by Tyler Nieuwendyk, Kyle Moore, Russell Peacock, Phil Romanet, Marcus Jende and Paul Davison to take the West Division final 3-1.

## Runner-up finish gets Eagles into provincial finals

Georgetown's minor mosquito Eagles earned a berth in the Baseball Ontario championship tournament set for the Labour Day weekend in Brampton, despite losing in the final of the recent Central Ontario Baseball Association playdowns.

Hosted by the Eagles at the Gellert Recreation Centre, Georgetown was edged out 12-9 by Brampton in the COBA championship game.

**Preliminary round—Georgetown 10, Mississauga Twins 4:** Nic Basilio (triple, double, single); Nick Theim (double, single); Stephen Kinal, Kyle Roach (double); Brandon Ponomarew (2 singles).

**Brampton Royals 8, Georgetown 2:** Basilio (2 singles); Campbell Ellis, Kyle Roach (singles).

**Georgetown 9, Mississauga Twins 8:** Ellis, Kurt Snell (triple); Basilio (2 singles); Owen MacNeil, Kinal, Joland Oke, Theim (single).

**Championship—Brampton Royals 12, Georgetown 9:** Josh Priebe (triple, 2 singles); MacNeil (double, single); Roach (double); Kinal (2 singles).



Georgetown's Josh Priebe gets tagged out at home plate by the Mississauga Twins' pitcher but aggressive baserunning helped the host minor mosquito Eagles win this contest 10-4, which was the opening game of the COBA Championship Tournament at the Gellert Recreation Centre.

*Photo by Eamonn Maher*



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