

SPORTS & LEISURE

Baker tired of seeing Reds

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Georgetown's Kevin Baker has seen Reds in the past two trips to the Canadian university men's hockey championships and the all-star centre is looking for a better outcome in his fourth and final year with the Western Mustangs.

The business management major arrived in Fredericton Tuesday with his Mustang teammates in preparation for this weekend's Cavendish University Cup tournament hosted by the defending CIS-champion University of New Brunswick Varsity Reds, who eliminated Western from the nationals in both 2009 and 2011.

Baker, who was recently named to the OUA West Division first all-star squad after finishing seventh in league scoring with seven goals and 30 assists in 28 regular-season games with the fourth-ranked Mustangs, said he's looking forward to getting another shot at UNB, winners of the national title on four occasions.

"There are a lot of us (Mustangs) in the same boat in that we've been together since my first year and this will be it for those guys," said Baker, who turns 25 next week.

"Hopefully we can finally beat UNB. They're always tough to play, especially at home like we found out last year (in a 4-0 semifinal loss). But the great thing about this tournament is that it comes down to one game and anything can happen. We lost to (the VReds) in the finals in my first year and then again last year. No mat-

ter who you play, every team is good out here."

The 27-6-3 Mustangs will open the six-team tourney Friday night against either the top-seeded 26-5-3 Varsity Reds or the sixth-ranked 24-11-2 UQTR Patriotes and then Western will play one of the above-mentioned teams Saturday at 4:30 p.m. in a semifinal contest that will be broadcast nationally on Rogers Sportsnet. The final is set for 8 p.m. Sunday, also set to air on Sportsnet.

After a solid five-year Ontario Hockey League career spent with Owen Sound, Sudbury and Oshawa, Baker passed on some professional tryout offers to study at Western and play for the Mustangs, for whom he's 44 goals and 86 assists in 110 games.

He has also scored six goals in eight playoff starts in this post-season, teaming up with line-mate and OUA leading scorer Keaton Turkiewicz to be one of the more dangerous tandems in the CIS.

The Mustangs advanced to the OUA championship a couple of weeks ago at home in London against Montreal's McGill and were beaten 4-1, but still qualified for the nationals as Ontario league finalist.

"I'll graduate this year, but I'd still like to keep playing hockey somewhere," added the Brampton native, who moved to Georgetown South with his family seven years ago.

"There hasn't been too much (interest) from (pro teams) yet. We're just focused on the nationals right now and see what happens after it's over."



Kevin Baker of Georgetown South has enjoyed another all-star campaign with the Western Mustangs and they are among six men's teams vying for the Cavendish University Cup this weekend in Fredericton, N.B. The high-scoring centre is in his last year at Western and this will be his third trip to the nationals.

File photo

Bulldogs, Northmen strike affiliation deal

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

The Halton Hills Jr. B Bulldogs and the Orangeville Jr. A Northmen have come to an agreement on an affiliation for the 2012 Ontario Lacrosse Association season.

Prior to the 2011 campaign, the OLA made it official that Jr. A teams had the option to affiliate with a second team. The Northmen have an automatic affiliation with its hometown Jr. B counterpart and last year affiliated with Newmarket as a second team.

"We're pleased and genuinely excited to affiliate with the premiere Jr. A organization in the country," said Bulldogs president & GM Mike Hancock.

"With the success we've had with such a young team, we wanted our players to have a place to advance to that would continue in their development to the next level."

The Northmen have advanced to the Ontario Jr. A final for the past five consecutive seasons and captured three consecutive provincial titles from 2008 to 2010, as well as back-to-back Canadian Minto Cup Champions in 2008 and 2009.

The Bulldogs themselves have also had their fair share of success over the past five seasons, making the Ontario Jr. B final four in each of

those seasons, highlighted by an Ontario and Canadian Founders Cup championship in 2010.

"This is something that was long overdue," said Northmen head coach Matt Sawyer.

"We are looking forward to working closely with a first-class Junior B organization like Halton Hills. This will also give us a chance to get some of our drafted players into their organization and gain valuable playoff experience and continue develop the strong character and work ethic that makes our team what it is."

The Northmen will open their season on Friday, May 11 at home against the Toronto Beaches, while the Bulldogs, who have been practising in Scarborough the past few weeks, will get things rolling on Saturday, April 28 in Nepean.

MCGOURTY JOINS ROCK: The National Lacrosse League's defending champion Toronto Rock have signed Georgetown resident and former Jr. B Bulldog Adam McGourty to its three-player practice roster Wednesday, pending league approval.

The 21-year-old defender was a third-round pick of the Washington Stealth in the 2011 NHL Entry Draft. McGourty, at 6-foot-2 and 180 pounds, spent the past four seasons with the Brampton Jr. A Excelsiors.



MIKE HANCOCK

Raiders will be busy

Four games in five nights gets the Ontario Junior Hockey League semifinal playoff underway between the Georgetown Raiders and the Stouffville Spirit this week.

The best-of-7 matchup be-

tween the OJHL's West and North division champions began last night (Wednesday) in Georgetown and switches to Stouffville Thursday, followed by back-to-back tilts this weekend.



For updates after each game, visit the www.theifp.ca.



OJHL North/West Conference
Best-of-seven final series

- Game 1
Wednesday, March 21 @ Georgetown
- Game 2
Thursday, March 22 @ Stouffville, 7:30 p.m.
- Game 3
Saturday, March 24 @ Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- Game 4
Sunday, March 25 @ Stouffville, 7:30 p.m.
- x-Game 5
Wednesday, March 28 @ Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
- x-Game 6
Thursday, March 29 @ Stouffville, 7:30 p.m.
- x-Game 7
Saturday, March 31 @ Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.
x-if necessary