

SPORTS & LEISURE

Bulldogs open season in dominant fashion

The Halton Hills Bulldogs came away with two lopsided victories over the weekend from their annual trip to eastern Ontario to begin the Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse League's 2012 regular season.

Bringing back several players from last year's squad that came within one win of a provincial championship, the Bulldogs crushed the Nepean Knights 13-1 Saturday and downed the Gloucester Griffins 14-5 Sunday.

Head coach Blaine McCauley was pleased with the team's opening weekend and training camp, pointing to the number of Halton Hills Minor Lacrosse Association graduates who have moved up to the Jr. B level.

After winning the 2010 Founders Cup Canadian title and falling just short last summer to the Six Nations Rebels in the Ontario final, the 'Dogs feel they're championship contenders again this year with at least a dozen returnees.

Adding incentive is that Six Nations will host the Founders Cup in August.

"We've got a few holes to fill and it's nice to see some of our guys moving up to a new challenge in Jr. A, but we're very excited that a lot of the guys who came back are showing that we have something to prove this year," said McCauley, in his sixth year as head coach.

"We didn't like how it all ended (at Six Nations) and our goal is to go back there and take what's ours. We want to have that opportunity again."

Even with captain and bruising defender Kody Lyons out for the first 10 games of the season due to a suspension stemming from the brawl at the end of the fifth-and-deciding game of the OJBLL final against the Rebels, Halton Hills has plenty of depth to draw on, led on offence by the Laidlaw

trio of Luke and his cousins Seth and Peter.

Rookie Connor Brown scored twice in each of the weekend contests and 6-foot-4 goaltender Dustin Hanzelka, back for a third season with the Bulldogs, picked up a pair of wins.

Luke Laidlaw (2), Brown (2), Peter Laidlaw (2), Seth Laidlaw, Tyler Nieuwendyk, Michael Licata, Jayson Crawford, Derek Thomas, Jamie Batten and Chris Haynes scored against the Knights, who were outshot 86-32.

Luke Laidlaw (5), Brown (2), Haynes (2), Brandon Clelland, Peter Laidlaw, Jake Perehiniak, Seth Laidlaw and Thomas tallied in the win over Gloucester.

The Bulldogs visit Markham Friday to face the Ironheads and then should get a tough test in their home opener Saturday at the Alcott Arena at 7:30 p.m. against Akwesasne, which chose not to field a Jr. A team this season.

The 'Dogs will host the Kahnawake Hunters Sunday at 2 p.m.

NOTES: Former Bulldog and local resident Michael Cregan played goal for Ireland for the fourth consecutive year at the Ales Hrebesky Memorial Lacrosse Tournament in Prague, Czech Republic last week. The 23-year-old, who had off-season knee surgery, was named MVP in a 4-2 loss to the eventual tourney-champion Boston Megamen in the preliminary round. The Riggers went on to finish 12th out of 16 teams entered. Cregan also earned his first Sr. B victory with the Oakville Titans recently, a 14-12 win over Sarnia, in which another ex-'Dog, Shane Scott, had three goals and five assists...The Jr. C Bulldogs are preparing for their second season in Acton after making the OLA semi-finals in 2011. Their home opener is May 9 against Shelburne.

CtK earns bronze at field tourney

Christ the King Secondary School has put together a girls' field lacrosse team for the first time and the Jaguars earned a bronze medal at a tournament in Welland, defeating a Pennsylvania school 6-5 in overtime in the third-place game.

Preliminary round— CtK 4, Notre Dame #2 (Welland) 2: Emily Marshall, Vic Herren (2G);

Jessica Fariello (W).

Villa Maria Academy (Pa.) 5, CtK 2: Cassie Broadbent, Marshall (G).

Notre Dame #1 (Welland) 12, CtK 0

Bronze Medal

CtK 6, Villa Maria Academy (Pa.) 5 (OT): Herren (3G); Marshall (2G); Clare Anderson (G); Fariello (W).



Soccer in the snow

Nicole Russell (left) of the Georgetown Rebels gains control of the ball in front of a White Oaks' player during the opening match of the Halton high school senior girls' soccer season last week at Kiwanis Field. On a day better-suited for cross-country skiing, visiting White Oaks posted a 4-1 victory over the Rebels.

Photo by Eamonn Maher



U-13 Impact win tourney

In the team's first season together, Georgetown's under-13 Impact moved up an age level and captured gold medals in the Tier II final at the recent Ontario Volleyball Association under-14 girls' Division 3 championships held at RIM Park in Waterloo. The Impact won eight of 11 matches on the weekend, including a 25-12, 25-23 victory over the Etobicoke Titans Blue for the Tier II title. Team members (front, from left) are: Morgan McCracken, Thea White, Katie Abrams, Sydney Ireland, Colleen Carney. Back row: Assistant coach Meghan McCracken, Georgia Bogert, Sabrina Melo, Laiken Cronkright, Emily Waldrum, Alicia Lam, Angela Henein, Beth Rohde, coach Jamie Bogert.

Submitted photo