

SPORTS & LEISURE

Junior bowlers win national title

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

A trip to Newfoundland for the Canadian 5-pin bowling championship tournament started off as a bit of a travel nightmare for a Georgetown youth team but ended as an excellent adventure.

The Georgetown Bowl junior boys' team consisting of Nick Hancock, Robert McDougall, Jason Reid and Nicholas Ridley captured the first Youth Bowling Canada National Championship title banner for the local lanes since a bantam girls' squad captured gold medals at the 2003 tourney in Regina, defeating a team from Edmonton in a tiebreaking championship final.

Just getting there, though, for dozens of the competitors turned into a marathon waiting game after fog blanketed much of the Maritimes and closed the airport in St. John's.

While the Georgetown team and several of its supporters made it to the venue before the travel chaos, Hancock and his family flew separately from the group and were re-routed to Gander, Nfld., then had to rent a car and make the three-and-a-half-hour drive to St. John's, getting there just five minutes before the opening ceremonies.

Still, the tournament had to be delayed for a couple of days to allow for the arrival of all the competitors and the format was shortened to a 14-game round-robin instead of 21, with each team facing each other twice.

Following the round-robin, Southern Ontario and Alberta were dead even so the tiebreaker was required, and the score between the teams was still tied after two bowlers in the 10th and final frame. Ridley then threw two strikes on his turn and anchor McDougall clinched the victory with another strike.

"It was definitely never a sure thing," laughed coach Bob Felker.

"(The rescheduling) really didn't affect us because we were 8-1 the first day. Then after lunch on the second day, we didn't lose a game. It went right down to the end and when Nick got the double, that opened up the lead for us."

The Southern Ontario representatives did lose both of their games against Newfoundland but were otherwise on the mark.

Through the first 14 games, the average scores for the team members were: Reid (203.57); Hancock (207.29); McDougall (221.43); Ridley (229.57).



Georgetown's Ryan Thomson (left) of West Virginia's West Liberty University Hilltoppers, joins coach Mike Ricci after a strong showing at a regional qualifier in Hershey, Pa. last week. Thomson will play in this week's NCAA Division II golf championships in Kentucky. *West Liberty University photo*

Thomson earns spot in tourney

Overcoming a shaky start to his final round, Georgetown's Ryan Thomson earned a berth in this week's NCAA Division II national golf championships in Kentucky thanks to a clutch performance at a regional qualifying event last week in Pennsylvania.

Thomson, 21, in his junior year of the golf management program at West Liberty University in West Virginia, bogeyed four of the first six holes in the third and final round of the NCAA Division II East/Atlantic Super Regional tournament at the Hershey Country Club, then was one over par through the final 12 holes in soggy conditions to finish with a four-over 75, earning one of two spots in the national championship, which begins today (Tuesday).

A Christ the King graduate and Club at North Halton member, Thomson recorded rounds of 77-75-75 at the qualifier for the Hilltoppers.

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The junior boys' team from Georgetown Bowl is the Canadian champion after prevailing in a tiebreaker over Alberta to take top spot at the tournament held in St. John's Nfld. Team members (front, from left) are: Robert McDougall, Nicholas Ridley. Back row: Jason Reid, coach Bob Felker, Nick Hancock. *Submitted photo*

First-place Bulldogs being Buzzed

The Halton Hills Bulldogs have some company atop their division standings and it doesn't appear the Oakville Buzz is going away anytime soon.

With a 5-2 record, the Bulldogs remain in first place in the Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse League South East Division standings but the 4-2-1 Buzz showed its talented young squad will be a force to reckon with last week, beating Halton Hills 8-6 Friday night just a day after tying the unbeaten Green Gaels 7-7.

Host Oakville was outshot 47-34 by the Dogs, yet owned an 8-3 lead by the midpoint of the third period. Connor Brown, Luke Laidlaw, Michael Licata, Brandon

Clelland, Peter Laidlaw and Seth Laidlaw scored for the Bulldogs.

Brown notched five goals and an assist as Halton Hills beat the visiting Orillia Kings 11-8 Saturday night. Seth Laidlaw (2), Luke Laidlaw (2), Jayson Crawford and Chris Haynes also tallied for the home side.

The Bulldogs have a pair of midweek road games on tap, taking on the 0-5 Mississauga Tomahawks Wednesday before visiting Bowmanville to take on the 5-0-1 Green Gaels Thursday evening.

Halton Hills will host the Markham Ironheads as well on Saturday at the Alcott Arena at 7:30 p.m.

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