

SPORTS & LEISURE

Bulldogs vs. Green Gaels: Part 6

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

Like freezies and flip-flops, one of the sure signs of summer is a playoff collision between the Halton Hills Bulldogs and the Green Gaels of Clarington.

In one of the best rivalries in the Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse League, the 20-2-1 'Dogs and 20-1-2 Gaels will meet for the sixth consecutive post-season and based on past series, fans of both clubs are in for another fantastic battle that will likely go the distance to decide.

Game one of the best-of-5 series is set for the Garnet P. Rickard Recreation Complex in Bowmanville Thursday at 8 p.m., followed by game two at the Alcott Arena in Georgetown Saturday at 7:30 p.m.

The third-place Bulldogs have won three of the five previous playoff series against the second-seeded Gaels, including a 3-1 victory in last year's OJBLL East Conference final.

Interestingly, the Bulldogs hadn't beaten the Gaels during the regular season since 2005, but earned a comeback 10-9 overtime win here on June 2 and the other matchup on May 17

between the two in Bowmanville ended in a 7-7 tie.

"We have a ton of respect for the Gaels as an organization and it seems like every year we play them, although maybe it's a bit earlier this year," said Bulldogs' head coach Blaine McCauley.

OLA Jr. B East Conference

Best-of-5 semifinal series

Game 1

Thursday @ Bowmanville, 8 p.m.

Game 2

Saturday @ Georgetown, 7:30 p.m.

Game 3

Tuesday @ Bowmanville, 8 p.m.

x-Game 4

Saturday, July 14 @ Georgetown,

7:30 p.m.

x-Game 5

Sunday, July 15 @ Bowmanville,

8 p.m.

x-if necessary

"We've had the upper hand on them the last couple of years so we expect them to come at us a little harder this time. Our guys are really excited and I'm sure they are too. Between these teams, it usually comes down to discipline and making the right play at the right time because they're all usually close games."

A few 'Dogs have been nurs-

ing injuries, including vets Brendan MacDonald and Leland de Langley, and McCauley is hopeful they'll return for the series.

The Gaels are a relatively young squad but are led by the league's top scorer, Dylan Goddard, who had 47 goals and 123 points. There's plenty of experience in goal with 19-year-olds Eric Pigden and Neil Roberts.

Halton Hills swept the Kahunawake Hunters in the first round while the Gaels also knocked out the Mimico Mountaineers in three straight games.

In the clinching win over Kahunawake last weekend, which was played in Valleyfield, Que., Luke Laidlaw and Mike MacDonald scored two goals apiece as the Bulldogs pulled out a 9-7 victory. Trailing 5-4 heading into the third period, the visitors came back with three straight goals to take control, with the visitors outshooting the Hunters 27-18.

Tyler Aunon, Jesse Copeland, Connor Brown, Shane Morlock and Dakota Rocco also scored for the Bulldogs

First-place Akwesasne will take on the fourth-ranked Oakville Buzz in the other conference semifinal series starting Saturday at Glen Abbey.



Oehrlein second at nationals

Ryan Oehrlein of Georgetown earned four medals, including a silver for a second-place overall standing in his age group, at the recent Canadian Gymnastics Championships in Regina, Sask. The just-turned 13-year-old Oehrlein, representing Milton-based Gold Medal Gymnastics, placed first on the rings and vault and second on the parallel bars to finish runner-up to Anthony Tawfik of Mississauga in the combined standings for the HP Argo Men Division (12 & under). GMG's David Sandro, also of Georgetown, in his first trip to the nationals, placed sixth on the pommel horse and 16th overall for the HP Argo category in Regina. Oehrlein and the 11-year-old Sandro are in Montreal with the national team for a training camp where they'll be tested on all six apparatuses for their technical skills.

Photo by Bob Oehrlein

Spencer debuts on Canadian Tour

Sixteen-year-old golfer Samantha Spencer of Georgetown posted a top-20 finish. The Club at North Halton South played in her first Canadian Women's Tour event as the youngest amateur in the field at the recent event held on the Battlefield course at Legends of Ni-

agara, posting a top-20 finish.

The Club at North Halton member fired rounds of 74-73 to finish at three over par, in a tie for 17th place. Spencer was in a field of 80 consisting of top-level college players and pros.



Spring in his step

Seventeen-year-old Martin Broadhurst became the first trampolinist from the Halton Hills Gymnastics Centre to earn a medal at the provincial championships after soaring to a bronze in the male 13 & over C division at the meet held at the University of Toronto's Mississauga campus. Broadhurst persevered through a number of injuries over the past year of training, including a broken finger, a cracked rib and two sprained ankles. Pictured with Broadhurst are coaches Felicia Cyrus and Greg Roe. The HHGC is running tumbling and trampoline camps this summer at its 36 Armstrong Ave location in Georgetown. Cost is \$125 per week for the five three-hour, half-day sessions or \$180 per week for the six-hours-a-day instructional camp. For more info, visit the website www.haltonhillsgymnastics.com or call 905-877-4330. Submitted photo

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