

SPORTS

"Quote/unquote"

'It's probably going to be the last chance for some of our guys to win a championship in their hometown.'
— Bulldogs' coach Blaine McCauley... see below



Club celebrates 20 years

Halton Hills Synchro held its annual end-of-season showcase last Sunday at the Georgetown Indoor Pool and this year's theme was, 'Looking Back... Twenty Years of Synchro, in which all the routines were performed to music used at least once in the last two decades. Pictured above, Emma Coleman, with the club's recreational team, swam to Hakuna Matata.

Photo by Victoria Thoms

Bulldogs primed for 'special' season

By **EAMONN MAHER**
Staff Writer

The Halton Hills Bulldogs returned from their visit to the Ottawa area over the weekend with a win and a loss to begin the Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse League's regular season.

Missing a number of veteran players due to school and work commitments, the Bulldogs still brought a talented young team into Gloucester Saturday evening to face the Griffins, who've traditionally been one of the league's weaker sides.

But the Griffs struck for seven first-period goals and held on for a 12-9 victory, then improved to 4-0 with a 10-8 win Sunday afternoon over another East Conference power, the Green Gaels of Clarington.

The 'Dogs, meanwhile, outscored the host Knights 5-0 in the middle stanza Sunday in Nepean on their way to a 7-4 triumph.

Scoring for Halton Hills Saturday were Josh Oliver (4), Tyler LeBlanc (2), Dakota Rocco, Adam Charalambides and Adam McKinnon. Charalambides (2), Seth Laidlaw, Jesse Oliver, Daryl Hanzelka, Campbell Parker and Cory

Highfield tallied on Sunday.

Rookie Drayden Patey and returnee Ryan Schuetzkowski shared the net-minding duties on the weekend, with fifth-year goaltender Dustin Hanzelka set to be back in the lineup soon.

Also returning for a fifth season are Laidlaw and Princeton University star Mike MacDonald.



**MIKE
MACDONALD**

Eighteen-year-old Connor Brown, who led the team in goals with a team-record 64 last season, has moved up to the Orangeville Jr. A Northmen.

On defence, the 'Dogs are led by vets Jayson Crawford, Jamie Batten, Jake Perehyniak and Daryl Hanzelka, while youngsters such as 2013 number-one Jr. A draft pick Highfield, Parker and Mimico midget grad Jesse Oliver are expected to pick up the slack with Brown's departure.

Laidlaw, MacDonald, Dustin Hanzelka and Crawford were rookies on the 2010 Bulldogs' team that won a Canadian championship and are now in

their last year of eligibility. After bowing out to Six Nations in the OJBLL final in 2011, Halton Hills has posted 17-2-1 records in each of the last two regular seasons, but was eliminated in the second round on both occasions.

"We've got a really solid group coming back and it could be a special year for us to get back on track, take care of some unfinished business and right some of the wrongs," said Bulldogs' head coach Blaine McCauley, back for a ninth season as bench boss.

"We're disappointed with how our last two seasons ended. We had good regular season success but not in the playoffs and we're focused on getting back to winning championships. It's probably going to be the last chance for some of our guys to win a championship in their hometown."

The Bulldogs face a tough test in their home opener this Saturday when the 3-1 Oakville Buzz visit the Alcott Arena in a 7:30 p.m. faceoff.

The Halton Hills Minor Lacrosse Association is also staging its third-annual Bulldog Boogie dance Saturday beginning at 9 p.m. Cost is \$10 and dance ticket holders will receive free admission to the Bulldogs' game.

Dickinson Mr. Clutch for Storm

The Guelph Storm is just two wins away from reaching the Memorial Cup and Georgetown's Jason Dickinson has had a hand in both of his team's wins in the Ontario Hockey League championship series against North Bay.

An 18-year-old centre, drafted by the NHL's Dallas Stars in the first round (29th overall) last summer, scored the Storm's winning goal in game one early in extra time and then helped set up the clincher Tuesday in North Bay with just 11 seconds left in the third period to grab the 4-3 victory, giving Guelph a

2-1 lead in the best-of-7 series.

Dickinson is one of five Storm players among the top-10 OHL playoff scoring leaders with six goals and 15 assists in 18 games, while also posting a plus-minus rating of +19.

The Storm, which finished first overall during the regular season with 108 points, defeated two other 100-point teams, London and Erie, en route to the OHL final.

A series victory over North Bay would send the Storm on to the Memorial Cup national championship tournament in London May 16-24.



Grasping gold

Team Canada women's Olympic gold medalist Jayna Hefford dropped by George Kennedy Public School in Georgetown on Tuesday to talk with students and share her experiences from the recent Winter Games in Russia. The 36-year-old Hefford, who has won four Olympic gold medals and a silver during her career, spoke about her time as an elite-level athlete and showed a video of Canada's thrilling 3-2 overtime comeback victory over the U.S. in Sochi before taking questions from the students. Pictured with Hefford (from left) are kindergarten teacher Jane Pupo and students Julia, Max and Chase Andrade.

Photo by Eamonn Maher



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