



Local native Don Cousens made one of the toughest calls in his 16 years as a Canadian Football League by choosing not to return for another season at the line of scrimmage in 2014. The longtime head linesman has taken on a supervisory role with the league, among other duties, and plans to be on the sidelines for youth games in Georgetown more often.

Submitted photo

Bulldogs poised to oust Griffins

After missing most of the regular season due to school commitments and injury, Seth Laidlaw scored the first three goals of the game by the 7:26 mark of the opening period and the Halton Hills Bulldogs went on to a 14-4 win over the Griffins in Gloucester Sunday afternoon.

With the victory, the fourth-place Bulldogs have a 2-0 advantage over the fifth-ranked Griffins in their best-of-5 Ontario Jr. B Lacrosse League East Conference semifinal series.

Game three of the series is slated for the Alcott Arena on Friday at 8 p.m.

Laidlaw, a 21-year-old from Norval, ended up with four goals on the day, with Adam Charalambides adding a hat trick and three assists.

The Griffins did cut the Bulldog lead to 4-3 early in the second frame, but the visitors asserted control from that point, not allowing another score. Quinn Harding, Miles Cox, Camp-

bell Parker, Kyle Moore, Lewis White, Owen White and Mitchell Bolduc also tallied for Halton Hills.

If a fourth game is required, it would be played Saturday in Georgetown at 7:30 p.m.

The 'Dogs received some bad news last week as fifth-year forward Mike MacDonald requires surgery on an injured hip and the Princeton University standout won't be available for the remainder of the playoffs.

Another 21-year-old sniper who is injured, Tyler LeBlanc, could be back in the next round of the post-season, head coach Blaine McCauley said.

Should the Bulldogs eliminate Gloucester, they'll face the top-seeded Green Gaels of Clarington in the second round, while the second-place Oakville Buzz and the Akwesasne Indians are also up 2-0 in their respective series and are likely to match up in the conference semifinals.

Cousens calls it a career

After 16 years and seven Grey Cups, Georgetown's Don Cousens is hanging up his whistle and #35 uniform as a head linesman in the Canadian Football League.

The 56-year-old has decided to step back from his on-field role and will remain involved with the CFL and at the local level with the Lakeshore Officials' Association.

"I had a chance for one more season, but the mind said one thing and the knees said another," said Cousens, who also recently retired from the Halton Regional Police Service after 35 years.

"My mobility was getting restricted and a lot of those athletes can run faster sideways than I can straight ahead. The game is so fast-paced today and that's why we need younger officials. It's been a great run and now it's time to give back to a sport I truly love. It sounds like I'm going to be busier now than when I was on the field."

Cousens has accepted to take on the positions of supervising officials in Toronto and Ottawa, running game day operations and coach for the line of

scrimmage officials.

He's been brushing up on the requirements of the new tasks by reading support documents and manuals for operations such as the command centre for reviewing replays. He'll still likely work high school games in stripes, help out with the Ontario University Athletics and has been the timekeeper for recent North Halton Crimson Tide summer league games.

"It's going to be a learning process for me and there's a higher expectation of doing things the right way when you're supervising and mentoring young officials because 50 per cent of them are new," he added, noting that it's a 50-minute flight between Toronto and Ottawa.

"I will continue officiating at the local level as long as my body will allow me to."

Cousens said his officiating career highlights included getting the call to officiate his first Grey Cup in 2002 and receiving the inaugural CFL Officials' Award (Don Barker Award) for his contributions to the Wounded Warriors Canada program.



Piece of advice from the Rock

Toronto Rock forward Garrett Billings stopped by St. Francis of Assisi elementary school in Georgetown last week to talk with students about lacrosse and the importance of education. Above, the Langley, B.C. native gives some pointers on ball handling to Grade 6 student Philip Vescio. Billings was the Rock's leading scorer this past season until a torn knee ligament ended his year in April but said he expects to be back in top form for the start of the 2015 campaign in January.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

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