

Sports & Leisure

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Dogs have their day, winning three titles at Classic

In the dog days of summer it was only fitting that the Halton Hills Bulldogs dominated this weekend's tournament.

The local entries made the final in all five divisions at the third annual Halton Hills Bulldog Classic, taking home top honors in three of them.

For the Georgetown Toyota Tyke Bulldogs and the Soft Water Plus Novice Bulldogs, it marked their fourth straight tournament victory. Both beat their archrivals from Whitby. The Tyke II Bulldogs also claimed the championship by downing Hamilton.



Nick Vanderkeyen checks a Hamilton opponent, jarring the ball loose in Sunday's Tyke II final. Halton Hills won the championship with a 10-6 victory. Photo by Herb Garbutt

Meanwhile the Soft Water Plus Paperweight Bulldogs suffered their first loss of the season in the Paperweight final, losing to undefeated Mimico.

The Novice Bulldogs took to the floor for the tournament's final game with a few things on the line. Halton Hills teams had split the first four finals and the novice squad would determine which side of the ledger the local teams came out on. The Bulldogs were also looking to extend their tournament winning streak to four and to do so they would have to beat Whitby, their main rival for the provincial title.

The Bulldogs were also looking to even the score after Whitby had rallied to slip past the Bulldogs 7-6 in their round-robin matchup on Saturday.

As with their previous meeting it would come down to the final period. The Bulldogs' three unanswered goals in the third made the 6-2 final look a little easier than it actually was. With the Bulldogs clinging to a 3-2

lead in the third, Brendon MacDonald gave Halton Hills some breathing room by capitalizing on a breakaway for his second goal of the game. Two minutes later, MacDonald spun away from a defender to fire a shot by the Whitby goalie to complete his hat-trick. Jesse Kuenzig added some insurance with just over two minutes to play.

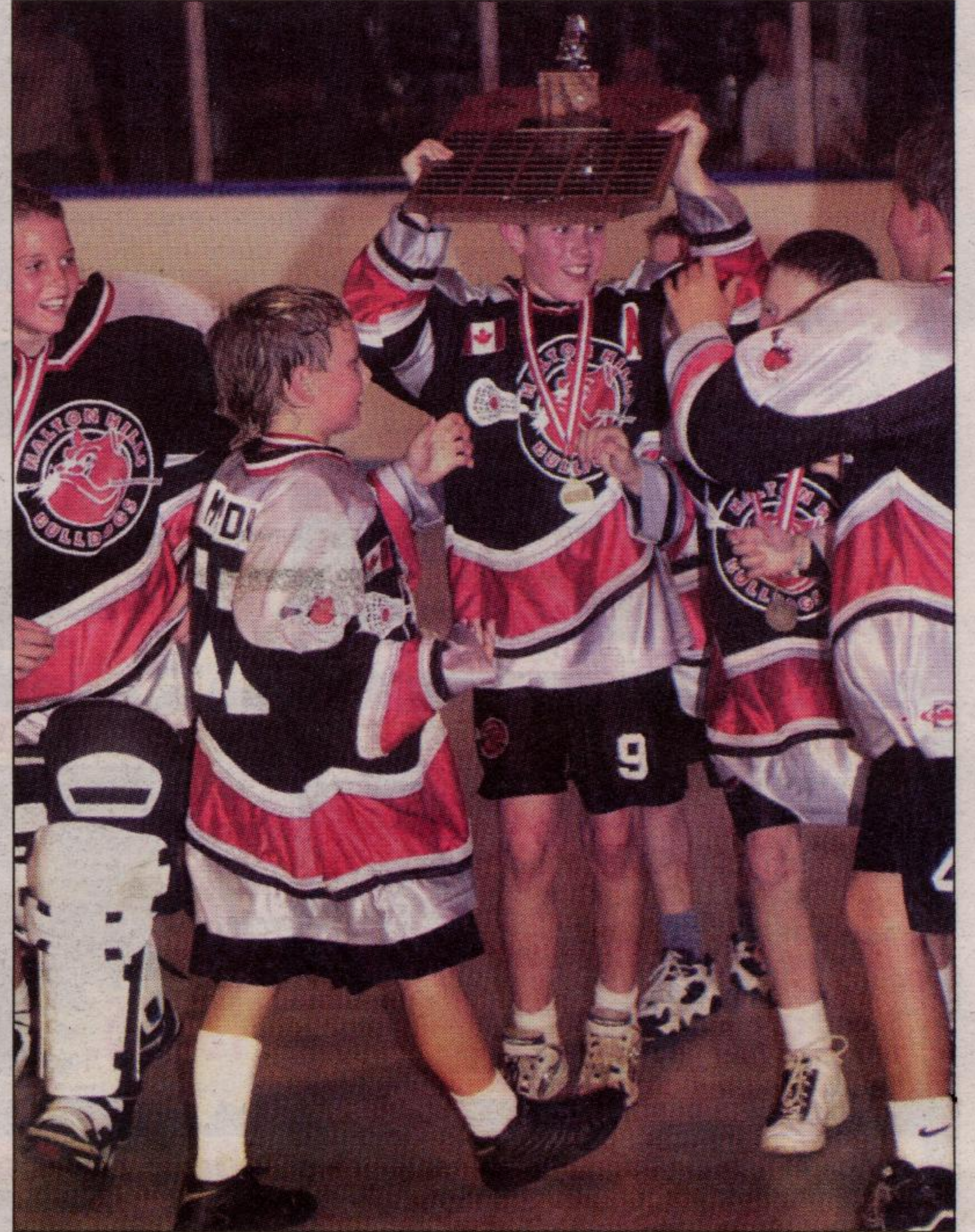
Halton Hills' Kody Lyons opened the scoring but it took only a minute for Whitby to respond. Goals by MacDonald and Chris Haynes provided a 3-1 cushion. Though Whitby controlled the play in the second, goaltender Joel Musial held off the attack until Whitby finally pulled within one with 1:28 remaining in the period.

Justin Reid and Kuenzig each had two assists for the Bulldogs while Haynes, Musial and Philip Romanet had one apiece.

Prior to the novice final, the Tyke Bulldogs had also wrapped up a fourth straight tournament championship. They wasted little time, striking just 30 seconds into their tilt with Whitby. They never trailed as they built a 6-2 lead, stopped a brief Whitby rally and then went on to a 9-5 victory.

Michael Curtis, Seth Laidlaw, Dylan Auty and Michael Darrigo scored as the Bulldogs jumped in front 4-2 in the first period. Jake Wood and Justin Rasmussen extended the lead to 6-2 in the second.

Whitby cut the advantage to



Brendon MacDonald, whose hat-trick led Halton Hills to a 6-2 win over Whitby, lifts the championship plaque above his head following Sunday's novice final at the Halton Hills Bulldog Classic. Celebrating with MacDonald are teammates (from left) Joel Musial, Robbie Murden, Chris Haynes and Zach Austin. Photo by Herb Garbutt

6-4 but the Bulldogs again pulled away. Rasmussen scored his second of the game and Mike MacDonald scored twice.

After Halton Hills was defeated in both the Paperweight and Novice II See TYKE II, pg. S/L 2

Season 'positive' despite sweep at hands of powerhouse Elora

It was a tall order — beat a team that has not lost all season not once, not twice, but four times.

In the end, despite providing the Elora Mohawks with their stiffest competition of the year, the Halton Hills Bulldogs could not overcome the Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B powerhouse.

"We got beat by the best," said Bulldog coach Gerald Veltman after Elora finished a four-game sweep with a 12-8 victory Sunday. "The way the boys played—the spirit, the intensity,

the attitude—they fought each game from beginning to end."

While qualifying for the Tier I playoffs for the first time and finishing with the best record (12-6-2) in the team's history were major accomplishments, the Bulldogs simply suffered the same fate as every other opponent the undefeated Mohawks have faced this year.

"Overall it was a fairly positive season," Veltman said. "It's tough going

into the second round and meeting Elora. Another round might have given us some more playoff experience. And if you compare our scores (against Elora) to a lot of other teams, we're probably sitting second, third or fourth in the province."

The series sweep extended Elora's winning streak to 24 games. In fact, the Bulldogs were the only team to take a point from the defending Ontario champions, after an early sea-

son 10-10 tie. No other team came within three goals of the Mohawks, something Halton Hills did three times.

Elora took control of the series with a 16-8 win Thursday in Georgetown and pushed the Bulldogs to the brink with a 13-6 victory Saturday in Elora.

The good news is unlike this year when the Bulldogs lost 12 overage players, they will only lose four next season.

Dog bites: The Bulldogs will be holding a fund-raising barbecue outside McMaster Meats at the Farmers' Market in Georgetown.



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