

Sports & Leisure

Friday, March 15, 2002

Buchanan first, Ryall second

Sweep of Rally Series falls short by a point

One point is all that prevented a Georgetown sweep in the 2002 Yokohama/Subaru Winter Rally Series.

After settling for runner-up honours last season, Jud Buchanan captured the expert division while Alan Ryall was denied the novice series championship by a single point.

Buchanan and navigator John Bellefleur of Brampton entered the final weekend in first place but with two races remaining, they still needed some good finishes to seize the championship.

In the first race, held on remote roads north of Kingston, Buchanan and Bellefleur finished with just 18 seconds in penalties. Unfortunately, so did two other teams. When the tie-breaking procedure (most penalty-free stages) was used, Buchanan and Bellefleur emerged as the winners.

One night later in the final event of the five-race series, rain and freezing temperatures made for some tricky driving conditions.

"It was just atrocious," Buchanan said. "If they had called the rally off at 3 a.m., I would have been relieved. It was just like skating out there. I was on the edge of my seat the whole time."

Richard Wong and Doug Green took first place but even with a cautious approach to ensure they finished, Buchanan and Bellefleur's came in second to capture the series title.

"Our strategy was we didn't have to win the event, we just

needed to finish on the podium, be second or third, to win the series," Buchanan said.

Ryall and his navigator Glenn Hamilton hadn't sat in the same car until they drove to their first rally of the season in Ottawa. Both Ryall and Hamilton had been out of the sport since the early '80s but were drawn back in by their children.

They raced against one another—Ryall with his daughter Karyn and Hamilton with his son David—in the summer series. When Karyn couldn't commit to the winter series, Ryall approached Hamilton about becoming his navigator.

"I had no idea how well we would do or how well we would work together," Ryall said.

The question was soon answered as they won their debut. They followed that up with a second-place finish and went into the final weekend's two events second in the series.

The first race of the double-header didn't go so well. With Hamilton suffering from motion sickness, the duo placed seventh. However, they bounced back the following night to earn the second victory of the season despite the treacherous, icy conditions.

All that was left was to tally up the points.

Each team's top four results from the five races counted in the final standings. That gave Ryall a one-point advantage over Tibor Apro of Mississauga. However, each driver was also given two points for each race they started. Because Ryall skipped the first race of the series, Apro moved ahead by one point and claimed the driver's title. Hamilton, though, won the navigator's title.

"I didn't get the hardware but it was a moral victory," said Ryall, who will move into the expert class next year. "For two guys over 50 to go out and kick the butt of guys in their '20s and '30s we were delighted."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



Travis Bland of the Georgetown Major Bantam Raiders is taken into the boards by an Etobicoke opponent in Wednesday's game at the Georgetown International Bantam Tournament. The Raiders earned a 1-1 tie to remain undefeated after two games. The tournament wraps up this weekend with division finals on Saturday and the A division and grand championship on Sunday.

Photo by Herb Garbutt

At Bantam tourney

Tanners nail down playoff berth

The Acton Tanners scored goals 28 seconds apart late in the third period to edge Coronation 2-1 Thursday afternoon and guarantee themselves a playoff berth in the 42nd Annual Georgetown International Bantam Tournament.

After two scoreless periods, Coronation struck first with 7:12 to play in the game. With time winding down, Matt Bronizewski scored with 3:45 remaining to tie the game. Twenty-eight seconds later he helped set up Greg Boughton for the winner. Kurtis McArthur also drew an assist on the goal.

The victory improved Acton's record to 2-0 and moved them into first place in the D Division ahead of Listowel, which is also 2-0, on the basis of the goals for and against tie-breaker.

Acton's final round-robin game is today (Friday) at 5:50 p.m. against Erin-Hillsburgh.

The Georgetown Major Bantams remained undefeated after playing Etobicoke to a 1-1 tie Wednesday. Aaron Kirk gave Georgetown the lead in the

third period but Etobicoke tied the game with 7:24 to play.

That made Georgetown the front-runners in the the B Division as they and Vaughan now sport records of 1-0-1.

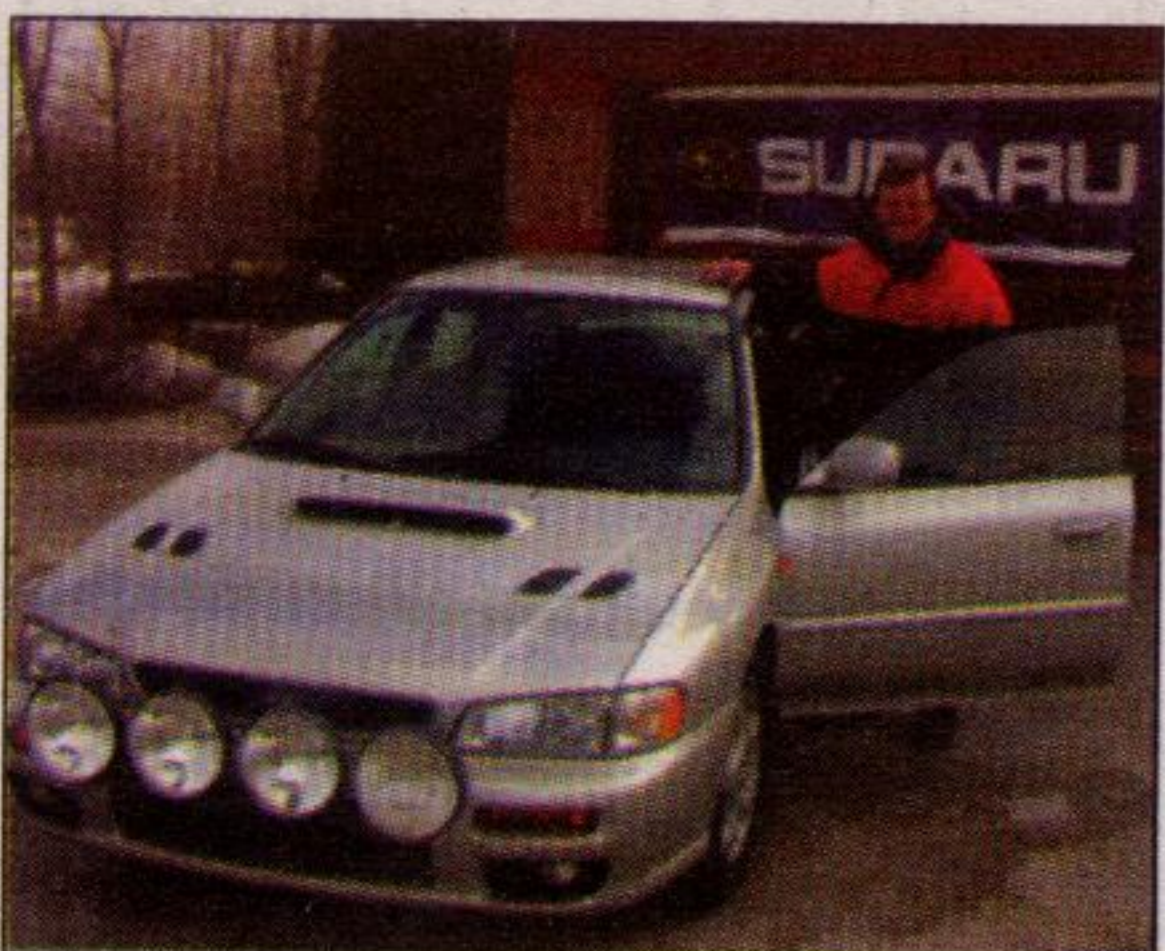
The Major Bantam Raiders had two games remaining, the first was last night (Thursday) and results were not available at press time, the second is tonight (Friday) vs. Ted Reeve at 8:30 p.m.

The Georgetown Bantam II Raiders weren't as fortunate as they dropped their second straight game, 6-1 to Coronation. Adam McKnight had the lone goal, assisted by Derek Cianfrini and David Cockburn.

The Raiders' final game is noon today (Friday) against Merriton.

Other games involving local teams are: Minor Bantam Raiders vs. Pickering, 4:30 p.m. today; Halton Hurricanes vs. Springfield, 7:10 p.m. today.

The playoffs begin at 8 a.m. Saturday with division finals at 3 p.m. (D); 5 p.m. (C); 7 p.m. (B); 9 p.m. (E). The A division final will be at 2 p.m. Sunday followed by the grand championship at 4 p.m.



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