

Sports & Leisure

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Bearcats showing their claws

Young Acton squad ends season unbeaten

Start with the smallest school in the division, take a junior team with little rep experience, sprinkle in some senior players and compete in the senior league.

It sounds more like a recipe for disaster than dominance.

But the Acton Bearcats senior girls soccer team defied the odds by wrapping up an undefeated 5-0 season Tuesday with a 4-1 win over the Christ the King Jaguars. The Jaguars came into the game with a 3-0-1 record and an opportunity to steal first place in the Halton North division from the Bearcats with a win. But Acton tallied four times in the second half to secure top spot in the division.

"We're a very young team," said Acton coach Gemma Warner. "We have a couple of key senior players but we're a well-rounded team. It helps that we have a few good rep players but you can't win a game with two or three players."

And certainly not five in a row. The Jaguars made them work for the final victory. Both teams had good chances in a scoreless first half. The Jags' Sarah Bruno curled a long direct kick just wide of the far post. At the other end, Acton's Amy Boileau made a nice move around two defenders to get a shot on net. The rebound went to Heather Atkinson at the other side but her kick sailed over the crossbar.

Acton would open the scoring in the opening minute of the second half when Boileau scored from a scramble in front set up by a corner kick.

She would score again to make it 2-0, getting her foot on Melissa Bigg's cross to redirect it inside the post.

Christ the King cut the lead in half. Bruno unleashed another strong kick, this time from a sharp angle over the Acton netminder and inside the far post.

Acton held on to the one-goal advantage until late in the game



Kiersten Duncanson of the Acton Bearcats collides with Emily Bowen of the Christ the King Jaguars in Tuesday's Halton senior girls soccer game. Acton scored four times in the second half to win 4-1 and clinch first place with a 5-0 record. The Jaguars, 3-1-1, finished second. Photo by Herb Garbutt

when Kirsten Lowe did some great work in the corner controlling the ball before setting up Bigg in front for a 3-1 advantage.

Lowe then scored one of her own in the final seconds of the game, finding a seam in the Jaguar defence, breaking in and placing a shot inside the right post.

The Bearcats showed their promise last season with a second-place finish and showed they hadn't lost much in the off-season by placing second at a pre-season indoor tournament. Warner said

the team "has definitely improved skill-wise from last year."

They showed that again by finishing fourth in a 16-team tournament involving teams from Halton and Peel.

"We're not really an offensive team or a defensive team," Warner said. "We have key players on every line."

Playoffs were scheduled to begin for both teams Thursday (yesterday).

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Georgetown earns rep basketball gold

Jay Muise scored 24 points in a 46-36 victory over the Hamilton Wildcats to lead Georgetown to a gold medal in its inaugural season of rep basketball.

Georgetown won the Division 5 championship at the Basketball Ontario provincial championship in London and Muise earned tournament MVP honours. Travis Wright contributed 12 points in the final.

Georgetown opened the tournament with three narrow victories. Their run opened with a 41-39 victory over Guelph CYO. Wright and Philip Romanet each had eight points for Georgetown.

Georgetown then squeaked by Conquest 55-53. Wright again led the team with 13 points while Romanet and Muise each had a dozen. In a preview of the final, Georgetown continued to pull out the close games, downing Hamilton 49-47. Muise had 15 points and Victor Thompson chipped in with 10.

The team's ability to win the tight games impressed coach James Racinsky.

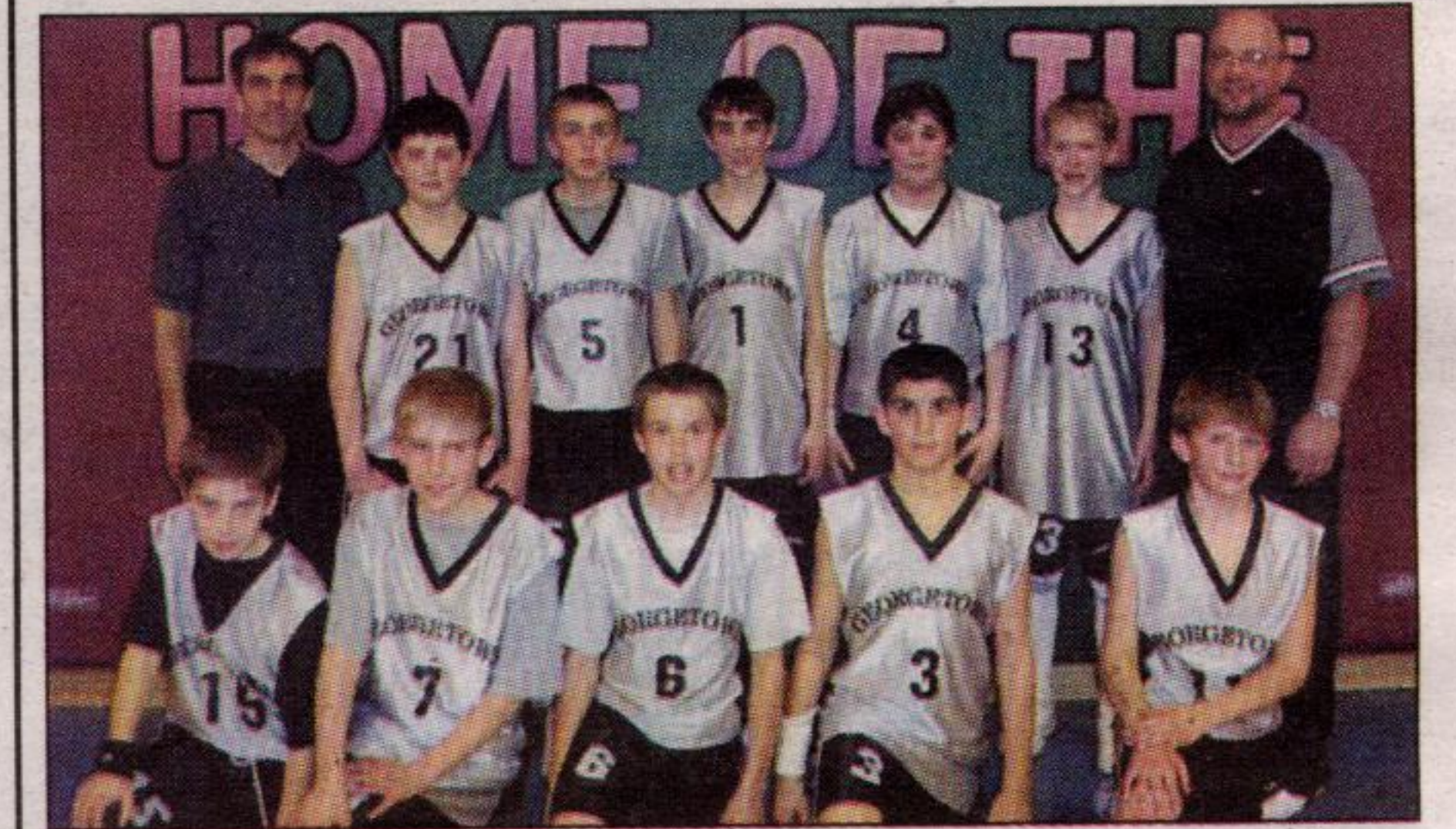
"All those games came down to the last minute. A lot of teams will fold and buckle when they're pressured, but they came through."

Georgetown suffered its only loss of the tournament in its final round-robin game when it fell 58-52 to Guelph Crestwicke. Three players hit double figures, led by Mitch Racinsky with 15 points. Romanet had 13 points and Muise had 11.

Balanced scoring helped Georgetown down Guelph CYO in the semifinals. Romanet led the team with 10 points and Wright, Muise, Racinsky and Thompson each had eight.

Georgetown ended the season with 12 wins in 22 games.

"All of the boys improved their skills over the year," Racinsky said.



Georgetown defeated the Hamilton Wildcats 46-36 to win the gold medal in Division 5 at the Basketball Ontario championships in its first season of play. Team members are (back row, from left): assistant coach Steve Wright, Victor Thompson, Jay Muise, Travis Wright, David Culp, Mitch Racinsky, coach James Racinsky (front row, from left) Chris Wilson, Steve Renton, Philip Romanet, Michael Zahra and Eric Neely. Submitted photo

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