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Bearcats' dream season comes crashing to an end in final



Acton Bearcat Emma Goddard's tackle separates St. Thomas Aquinas' Jessie Barrett from the ball in Friday's Halton senior girls soccer final. St. Thomas struck for two early goals and went on to a 4-1 win, handing Acton its first loss of the season.
 Photo by Herb Garbutt

The Acton Bearcats success left them unprepared for one thing—how to play catch up.

The Bearcats entered Friday's Halton senior girls soccer final riding a seven-game winning streak. Acton not only made it to the Halton final, they earned the right to host after putting together a 5-0 season. The Bearcats showed that record was no fluke with a pair of lopsided playoff victories.

But Acton finally met its match against the St. Thomas Aquinas Raiders. The Raiders took an early lead and carried the momentum to a 4-1 victory.

"We can't be too upset," said Acton coach Gemma Warner. "We're definitely very happy with how they did."

"This is further than the team has gone in a long time," added coach Don Evoy.

After a 7-1 win over E.C. Drury to open the playoffs, the Bearcats got a pair of goals from Melissa Bigg and one from Amy Boileau in the opening half on their way to a 3-1 win over Milton District in Thursday's semifinal.

But St. Thomas came out strong Friday, scoring twice early in the first half. The goals put Acton on its heels and sitting back gave St. Thomas the room it needed to move the ball out of their end when Acton threatened.

"We've never had to play behind. We've always been up a goal," Evoy said.

Acton wasn't helped by confusion over the starting time. St. Thomas arrived for a 3 p.m. game while Acton was told the game wasn't until 3:30 p.m. As a result, Acton didn't get a proper warm-

up. Still, they got a bit of a spark when Bigg scored just before the half to narrow the margin to 2-1.

The break seemed to kill Acton's momentum though, allowing St. Thomas to regroup and go back on the attack. They scored early to restore the two-goal advantage. When Acton did get chances, the St. Thomas keeper came up with key saves.

At the other end Katie Boychuk did her best to keep her team in the game but a late goal sealed Acton's fate.

"That's the most shots she's ever seen," Evoy said. "Maybe more than she's all season (combined). She made a lot of good saves for us."

Despite the loss, the Bearcats should again be a force to be reckoned with next season. They will lose four players—Katie Banks, Sarah Berry, Emma Goddard and Heather Atkinson—leaving a large portion of their team intact.

Goddard played well throughout the playoffs, keeping the ball in the opposing end and setting up scoring chances while Berry's slide tackles and strong clearing kicks helped keep the ball out of Acton's end.

"We'll have to rebuild the defence but we still have a lot of our key players," Warner said.

Acton is well-stocked for the future with Lindsay Atkinson and Caroline Shaw, a pair of Grade 9 players who earned starting roles this year.

The teams main goal scoring threats, Bigg, Boileau and Kirsten Lowe will also return next season.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Butcher, Andrews dominate at GHAC championships

Two provincial champions served notice they are ready to add to their medal collection.

Acton's Kaitlyn Andrews and Christ the King's Ian Butcher left the competition in the dust in posting a pair of wins each at the Halton/Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference (GHAC) track and field championships.

Andrews, a double gold medalist at last year's Ontario Federation of Schools Athletic Association (OFSAA) championships, won the junior girls shot put and discus by wide margins.

Her 11.99m mark in the shot put was more than three metres better than the second-place finisher, who checked in at

8.63m. The Grade 10 student's win in the discus was even more convincing. Her throw of 35.41m was more than one-and-a-half times that of the runner-up (22.85).

Andrews' performance was so dominant that she would have won the senior events handily. Her shot put distance was still three metres better than the senior winner while she outdistanced the senior champ by almost 10 metres.

An ankle injury kept Butcher out of last year's provincial high school championships but he looks ready to leave his mark again. The OFSAA record holder in the midget boys 400m, won his specialty by more than two seconds, finishing in a time of 49.43 seconds. The Grade 12 stu-

dent added a second victory in the 200m with a time of 22.03 seconds.

Georgetown's Angie Davids began her bid to earn a return trip to OFSAA with two victories at the Halton/GHAC meet. Davids' winning throw (34.25m) in the senior girls javelin was five metres better than the throw that helped her earn a 16th place finish in the javelin at OFSAA last year. That also represented her margin of victory at GHAC, with the second-place finisher well back at 29.68m.

Davids also won the Halton/GHAC senior girls shot title with a distance of 8.82m and finished fourth in the discus.

Andrews and Davids wins led the

way but others helped Halton Hills schools dominate the field events.

Acton's Daniel Woolford won the junior boys shot put with his put of 13.35m. Woolford was also second in the discus and eighth in the javelin.

Teammate Troy Ethier leapt 5.99m to win the senior boys long jump. He added a second-place finish in the triple jump.

Christ the King's Amanda Hole won the junior girls javelin. Her throw of 24.59m was five metres better than the rest of the field. She was also fourth in the shot put.

Georgetown's Gavin Viray-Cox won

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