



Matt Lyons of the Halton Hills Bulldogs breaks free from an Oakville player's check during Thursday's Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B game. The Bulldogs won 9-4 to take over first place in the South East Division. Photo by Herb Garbutt

Top 'Dogs down division rivals

Their names may not appear on the scoresheet very often but their job is every bit as important as those who do.

And the Halton Hills Bulldogs got an indication of how much their defence means to them in a pair of wins that vaulted them to the top of the Ontario Lacrosse Association's Jr. B South East Division.

With just two points separating the top three teams, the Bulldogs more than earned their spot at the top by knocking off their two closest rivals. The Bulldogs topped the Oakville Buzz, the division leaders heading into the game, 9-4 Thursday at home. They followed that up with a 8-7 win over Mimico.

Halton Hills (7-2) is now two points up on both teams. And while both Oakville and Mimico (6-4) are capable of matching the 'Dogs offensively, they weren't up to the task defensively.

"It's not a job that gets a lot of praise but it keeps us in a lot of games," said Bulldog coach Gerald Veltman after his team shut down Oakville. "They're in there hitting, getting loose balls and between them and John Edwards in net we kept their big scorers off the board."

The same could not be said of the Buzz who got burned for four goals by Travis Bland while Mike Dube added two goals and two assists.

"When they're on they're unstoppable," said Bulldog captain and defensive mainstay Nick Black. "I'm glad they're on our team. And we've

also got (Matt) Lyons, (Chad) Artem....you could go down the whole list and name them all."

It's a list that now includes Chad Henry, who returned from college in the U.S. last week. Henry scored in his season debut Thursday and then racked up four goals in Friday's win.

After falling behind 4-2 against Mimico, the 'Dogs scored six straight goals to take a comfortable 8-4 lead.

Black said the defence has been doing a good job but pointed to a couple of late goals against Oakville as a trend that has to end.

"The first and second we've been really good. You can see the other team getting frustrated and we've got to stay on them. But we've been letting up in the third and even a few goals like tonight can hurt us."

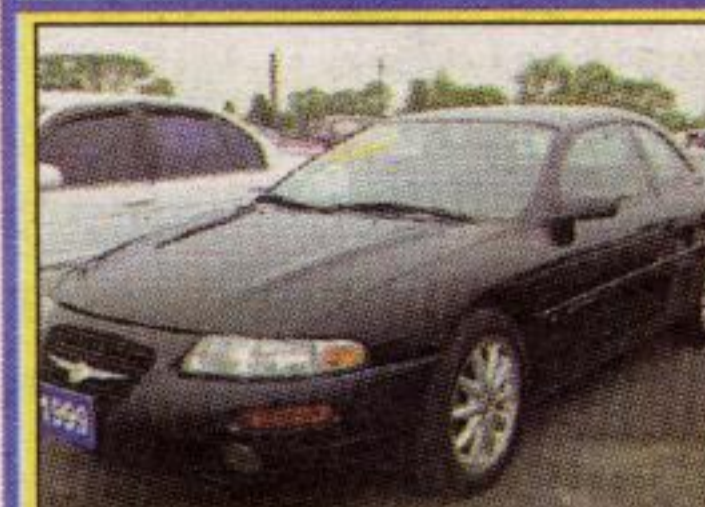
Black's words were almost prophetic as Mimico made the Bulldogs squirm with three goals in the final six minutes. However, Jordan Armstrong got the ball off a faceoff and ran off the final 20 seconds to help secure the win.

DOG BITES: Dube's second goal against Oakville was his 200th career point. He now has 202 points and trails only Richard Haan (213) on the Bulldogs' all-time list....Black became the fourth player to play in 100 career games for the Bulldogs and is just six games shy of all-time leader Brad Kouyoumjian....Kyle Kennery came on in relief of Edwards against Mimico to earn his second win of the season.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

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