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At Ontario field championships Bulldogs strike gold

It was a golden weekend for the Halton Hills Bulldogs.

Three Bulldog teams won provincial titles at the Ontario Lacrosse Association field lacrosse championships in Hamilton while another earned a silver medal.

"For one of the smaller programs, it's quite an accomplishment," said Bantam Bulldogs coach Daryl Haynes. "We only have seven teams and all seven qualified for provincials and all of them qualified in A or B (the two highest levels of play)."

Haynes' Bantam Bulldogs and the Pee wee Bulldogs both won A championships while the Pee wee II Bulldogs won the Ontario B championship. The Novice Bulldogs won the silver medal in A.

"Halton Hills is really making a statement," said Pee wee II coach Kevin Dance. "Year after year we're filling the trophies with our name. It's not just one team. We've got six or seven years of lacrosse players winning Ontario championships."

Making the success even

more impressive is that the field lacrosse program is in just its fifth year, yet the pee wee squad won for the third straight year.

Bantam Bulldogs

With a trip planned to Baltimore, Maryland for the world's largest lacrosse tournament later this year, the Halton Hills Bulldogs wanted to go representing their province.

They didn't want to do it simply by virtue of being the only Ontario team at the tournament. They wanted to do it by going in as the reigning provincial champions.

Mission accomplished.

The Bulldogs clinched the Ontario bantam title with a convincing 9-1 win over Burlington Sunday.

"We're looking forward to going down there as the best Ontario has to offer," said Haynes.

The Bulldogs had a rocky start to the tournament. Orangeville led 10-7 but Halton Hills rallied for three straight goals, the last with just 19 seconds to play, to tie the game 10-10. They carried the momentum into overtime and

won 14-10. But from the mid-point of the first game, Halton Hills was unstoppable. They won their next game 12-3 over Burlington to clinch first in their division.

In a semifinal rematch of the opening game, the Bulldogs had a much easier time in dropping Orangeville 11-5. Then it was another rematch in the final, this time against Burlington.

"The fields were so soft and sloppy, just getting up and down the field was a lot of effort," Haynes said. "That's where all the work the boys have done really paid off. They didn't tire out at all."

Pee wee Bulldogs

Rain, mud and Ontario's best teams were no match for the Halton Hills Pee wee Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs won their third straight Ontario Lacrosse Association field championship by downing Oshawa 7-1 for the gold medal Sunday. Oshawa defeated the Bulldogs 7-4 at a provincial qualifier but Halton Hills exacted a little revenge with the win in the final.



The Halton Hills Bantam Bulldogs defeated Burlington 9-1 to win the Ontario field lacrosse championship on Sunday. Team members are: (front row, from left) Adam McGourty, Daniel Rovere, Kyle Pereria, Nic Spence, Brendan Gingras, (second row, from left) Chris Haynes, Philip Romanet, Cameron Flint, Sean Sargent, Ryan Haynes, J.J. Laforet, Ryan Flynn, Sean Terry, Russell Peacock, Liam Heelis, Brendan Mac Donald, Kyle Andrews, Daniel Patteron, (back row) coach Daryl Haynes and coach Ron Flint.

"We had beaten them twice earlier in the year and I think the guys just took them for granted in the qualifier," said Bulldogs coach Pat Kelly. "They had something to prove (in the final). And the bigger the game, the better they play."

It was the third straight year the Bulldogs had risen to the occasion in the championship game.

"They're good kids and it's a very talented little group of athletes," Kelly said.

Their athleticism paid off in sloppy field conditions caused by a couple days of rain.

"They had to be a lot more aggressive on the ball because it spent more time on the ground," Kelly said. "That made it a lot more physical."

But the Bulldogs also did preparation for the conditions. While other teams huddled in tents prior to their games, the Bulldogs hit the field early to get used to running in the mud.

Halton Hills opened the tournament with a 12-7 win over Brampton, then blasted London 18-4. They beat Brampton again in the semifinals, 9-2, to set up the rematch with Oshawa.

The 'Dogs got increasingly

stronger defensively throughout the tournament, capping it by allowing Oshawa only a single goal in the final.

"Our defence— Chase Balisy, Peter Coady, Ashton Waters and Steven Silas— there's no four better in Ontario," Kelly said. "Those four guys really shut down the other team."

The offence wasn't too bad either. Mike Sgarbossa had three straight five-goal games to open the tournament. In the final Robbie Murden scored twice while Sgarbossa, Luke Laidlaw, Bradley Kri, Jeff Beedham and Jesse Beamish each had one.

Pee wee II Bulldogs

The Halton Hills Pee wee II Bulldogs left little doubt as to who was bringing home the gold from the Ontario field lacrosse championships.

The Bulldogs scored four times in the first nine minutes on their way to an 8-1 victory over West Durham in Sunday's championship game.

"These kids are amazing," said coach Kevin Dance. "I've had them for five or six years. I've never seen a group with so much heart. It's 150 per cent all the time."

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The Halton Hills Pee wee Bulldogs won their third straight Ontario field lacrosse championship by downing Oshawa 7-1 Sunday. Team members are Peter Coady, Ryan Kelly, Chase Balisy, Brandyn McCarthy, Mike Sgarbossa, Jake Davis, Joseph Luongo, Luke Laidlaw, Bradley Kri, Leland Delangley, Ashton Waters, Scott Dermott, Jeff Beedham, Stephen Silas, Robbie Murden, Jesse Beamish, Jake Denomme, Mikey Sones, coaches Pat Kelly, Scott Sones, Matt Lyons and Rob Davis, trainer Rick McCarthy and manager Joanne Silas.

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