

Sports & Leisure

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Red-hot Dube powers Bulldogs to 7-3 win over Barrie Tornado

The Halton Hills Bulldogs tried something new Thursday— playing with a lead.

After making a habit of comebacks early in the Ontario Lacrosse Association season, the Bulldogs instead took it to the Barrie Tornado in the opening period of the Jr. B game. The end result was a 7-3 victory that moved the 'Dogs above the .500 mark at 4-3-1.

Halton Hills had trailed after the opening period in six of its previous seven games and were outscored 25-13 in the opening frame over that stretch. But they came out looking to rectify that against Barrie.

And who better than Mike Dube to get the team rolling. Dube scored 22 seconds into the game and before the period was over had his fifth hat-trick in the last six games to stake the Bulldogs to a 5-1 lead.

Barrie would battle back in the second to make a game of it, cutting the lead to 5-3 before Dube picked the top corner for a shorthanded goal with 5:29 to play in the second.

Kyle Kennery continued his best game of the season by blanking Barrie in the final period while Braden Artem scored his

eighth of the season to give the Bulldogs a little insurance.

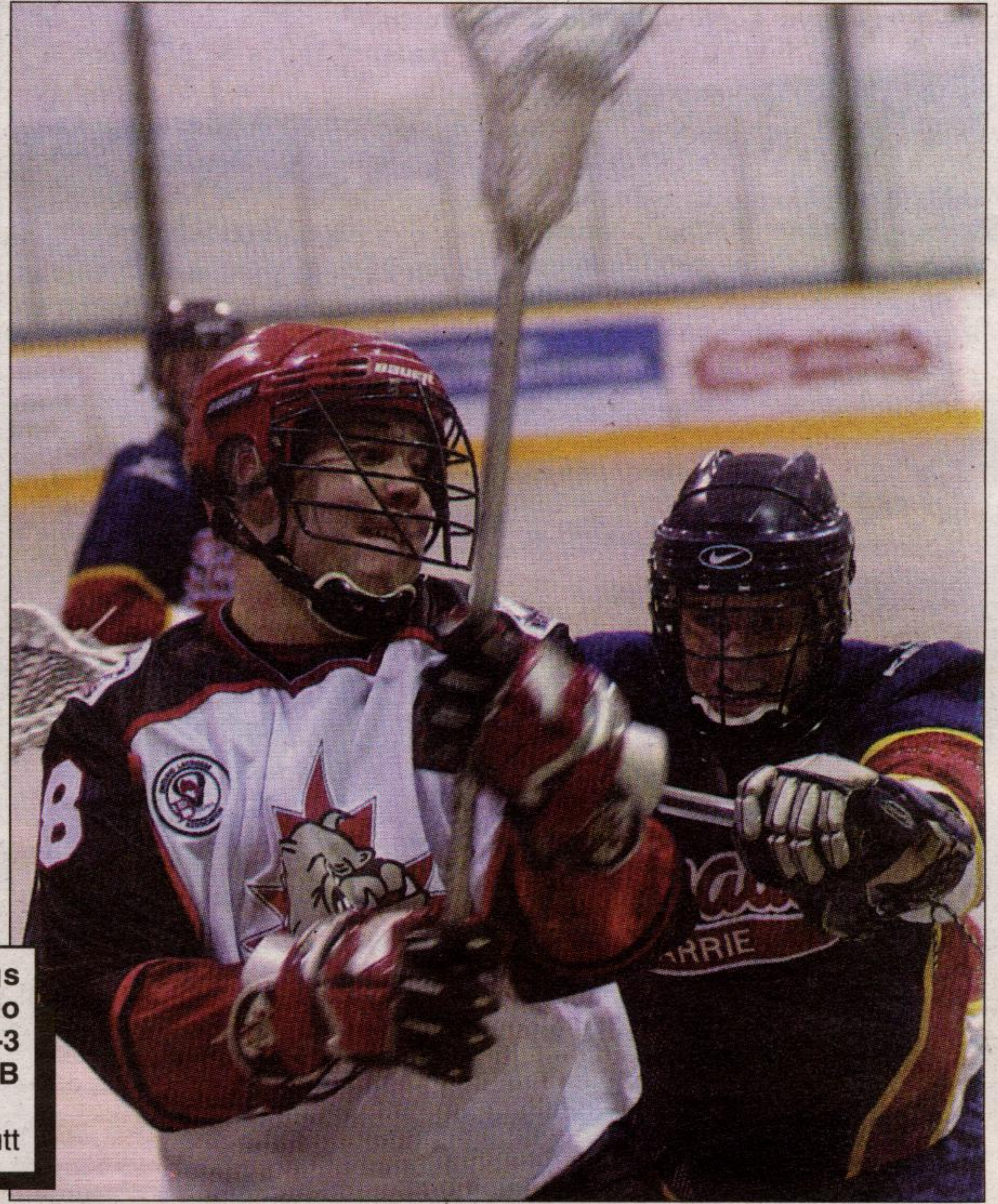
Adam Rutz and Graham Knoepfli also scored for the Bulldogs while Mike Brown and Tim Walinga each chipped in with three assists. Dube also had a pair of helpers.

The victory moved the Bulldogs back within striking distance of the leaders in the South East Division. Oakville sits atop the standings at 5-2-1 while Mimico is 5-2-0. Mimico is in town tomorrow (Thursday) for an 8 p.m. game at the Alcott Arena. The Bulldogs then play a home-and-home series with Huntsville on the weekend. The Bulldogs host the Hawks 6 p.m. Sunday.

DOG BITES: Dube's third goal not only completed his hat-trick, it was his 150th goal as a Bulldog....Dube's 25 goals are second only to Windsor's David Hodgins, who has 32 in 12 games. Dube has scored 22 times in the 'Dogs last six games.

Mike Dube of the Halton Hills Bulldogs fends off the checking of Barrie Tornado player Matt Saban during the Bulldogs' 7-3 win in Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B action Thursday at Alcott Arena.

Photo by Herb Garbutt



New season starts Saturday

Soccer club to focus on development of young players

The Georgetown Soccer Club kicks off a new season Saturday that it hopes will be the beginning of a new phase in the club's history.

Club president Eugene Horak said the club will focus a lot of its development in the younger age groups. Horak hopes this will pay off long-term by allowing elite players to remain in town rather than seeking higher levels of play in other centres.

The club has created the Georgetown Soccer Academy and has partnered with two development organizations, the Soccer Development Model Academy and Shooting Stars, in hopes of further improving the skills of local players. The club will follow the philosophies of Horst Wein, a world renowned mentor for soccer coaches.

"It's a youth model, not just for soc-

cer, but for all sports," Horak said. "It eliminates a lot of the traditional games at the young ages, the seven-on-sevens, and breaks it down to smaller groups."

Instead of working on team game strategy, the groups work on the one-on-one and two-on-situations that comprise every game. Wein's philosophy is that this allows players to develop by thinking for themselves and giving them a better understanding for the game.

"There are hundreds of ways to trap and kick a ball," Horak said. "This helps them bring some creativity back into soccer."

The more practice, fewer games theory has been championed for hockey but has met resistance mainly due to lack of ice time. Though the club, with 2,700 registered players, has had to cap registration in some age groups, Horak

doesn't see a problem with implementing the program.

"With smaller groups we don't need as many fields. We can get more teams on less space and there will be a smaller ratio of coaches to players."

There will also be three different summer camps this season, one geared to elite (rep and select) players, one to players between the ages of seven and 13 and an introduction to soccer for players four to six-years old. There will also be a year-round skills development clinic on Friday nights for players six to 19. Horak said they should be able to accommodate any player who wants to take part and they can sign up in advance through the club's website, www.georgetownssoccerclub.com or through the club's office, 905-877-3295.

Shooting Stars will focus its attention on rep and select players and develop-

ing their skills. The organization has also been successful in helping promote avenues such as scholarships for players.

"We want a good transition from youth to elite programs," Horak said.

Horak said in addition to providing more instruction to younger players, coaches will also receive instruction throughout the season. From surveys the club conducted, Horak said most players' positive experience was a result of the coach. By ensuring the club's coaches have the information they need, they have a better opportunity to create a positive experience for the player.

"We want to improve the overall skill development and build a strong organization," Horak said.

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer



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