

Sports & Leisure

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Familiar nemesis sinks Eagles squad in Ontario final

After finding ways to win close games at the Ontario Baseball Association championships, the Georgetown Sundown Integrated Systems Minor Bantam Eagles couldn't find a way to defeat an old foe.

The Eagles rallied from a 4-0 deficit in the championship game only to be edged 5-4 by Woodstock, the same team that defeated Georgetown for the 2003 provincial title. The silver-medalist Eagles ended the tournament, held in Windsor on the weekend, with a 3-2 record, with both losses coming against Woodstock.

Woodstock capitalized on Eagle errors to score two unearned runs in the first inning and increased its lead to 4-0 by the third. Georgetown tied the game with a run in the fifth and three more in the top of the sixth but Woodstock would score the winning run in the bottom half of the inning. Georgetown threatened again, getting the tying run to third in the seventh but Woodstock held on for the win.

"They started getting down when they fell behind but that's a lesson about adversity," said Eagles manager Don Rees. "You can either get down or you can rise to the occasion. And they rose to the occasion. When things got really tough, they elevated their game."

The Eagles opened the tournament with a 6-5 victory over Whitby. Will Cook pitched four shutout innings and his teammates spotted him a 6-0 lead. Whitby battled back to get within one but Cook shut the door as the Eagles held on for the win.

Adam Slade tripled and scored on a wild pitch in the 11th inning to keep the Eagles undefeated as they edged Tecumseth 5-4. Brad Dilks struck out seven and allowed only three earned runs through nine innings but left with the game deadlocked 3-3. The Eagles had the winning run on third in the last five innings, three times with one out, but it wasn't until Slade crossed that they finally nailed down the victory.

"We've always had the ability to pull games out of the hat," Rees said.

They did it again as the Eagles and Tecumseth renewed their rivalry later in the day. The Eagles won a nailbiter 2-1 when Jacob Krane scored on a wild pitch in the bottom of the seventh. Jay Muise allowed only one run through six innings. Will Cook came on in relief in the seventh and earned his third straight win.

Rees said the team had a strong start to the season but had a bit of a letdown in the middle of the year. However, they managed to recapture their early momentum at playoff time.

"We started to rebuild the energy and enthusiasm at the right time," Rees said. "Going into the weekend I knew if we matched our best game against Woodstock's best game, we could win. We didn't do it in the first game but we did in the second. We played our A game when it really mattered."

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Cameron Flint proved to be a valuable addition to the Hamilton team that represented Ontario at the Canadian midget field lacrosse championships. Flint scored 17 goals in five games to earn most valuable player honours. Photo by Herb Garbutt

Pickup Flint keys Hamilton victory

The Hamilton field lacrosse team obviously knows how to play the game, having won the provincial championship. They aren't too shabby in the scouting department either.

Allowed to add a couple of players to round out the Ontario squad for the national championships in Saskatoon, Hamilton called on Georgetown's Cameron Flint. It was a slightly risky pickup considering the 14-year-old would be a first-year midget playing on a major midget team.

But Flint more than rewarded the decision. He scored five times in an 18-9 win over Victoria's Island Rock and added three more in a 13-6 victory over Pacific Rim that earned the Ontario squad the gold medal.

And it earned Flint a place on the all-star team as well as tournament

MVP honours.

"It was exciting," Flint said. "There were lots of good players there so it was a surprise."

Playing midfield, Flint finished the tournament with 17 goals and might have had more if he didn't have to sit out the opener. That was due to a one-game suspension carried over from the last game of the provincial tournament. In the five games that he did play, he accounted for one quarter of his team's goals.

Ontario was undefeated in the tournament, defeating Pacific Rim 10-6, South Saskatchewan 9-3, Saskatoon 13-3 and Calgary 14-3 to advance to the semifinals. Flint had a hat-trick in each of the last three round-robin games.

The Grade 10 student at Christ the King said it was initially a little

strange joining a team he has always been battling against for provincial title.

"It was a bit awkward at first but they were all nice guys and they helped me fit in."

—By Herb Garbutt, staff writer

Raiders open new season

The Georgetown Raiders begin the task of defending their Dudley Hewitt Cup Saturday when they play host to the Burlington Cougars. Game time is 7:30 p.m. at the Alcott Arena.

Georgetown is action again on Monday night when they play in Mississauga at the P. Credit Arena at 7:30 p.m.



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