

SPORTS & LEISURE

Senior Jaguars ousted by shootout loss to Lords

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As will likely be witnessed at next month's World Cup of soccer in Germany, penalty kicks can seem like a cruel way to decide a match when you're on the short end of the score.

And the Christ the King Jaguars were victims of the dreaded shootout on Wednesday, which spoiled a spirited last-second comeback in regulation time. Their first-place senior boys were eliminated from the Halton AAA playoffs with a 4-3 loss to Burlington's Nelson Lords in the quarter-final at Georgetown on Wednesday.

The Jaguars completed the regular season with a 3-0-2 record and took an early lead in Wednesday's match on an Andrew Farrugia marker against 3-1-1 Nelson. The Lords rallied back, however, building a 3-1 advantage midway through the second half.

Then with about five minutes remaining in regulation time, Christ the King's Robert Chrzaszcz dribbled the ball deftly, and with speed, through the centre of the Nelson defence and cut the lead to one with a chip into the net. Awarded a free kick in stoppage time, Jags' central defender Marc Amaral was able to sneak in behind the Nelson defenders and headed a ball past goalie Brent Atkinson, forcing extra time.

"Every time, our coach (Rob Biturajac) says to get to the back post when everyone

is crowding around the front of the goalkeeper, and it worked this time," said Amaral, a Grade 12 student.

Unfortunately for Amaral and the Jaguars, he was forced to leave the match early in the first 10-minute overtime period with a calf injury after making a chance-stopping slide tackle. The teams were unable to score in extra time, despite excellent chances at both ends, leaving it up to penalty kicks to declare a winner.

At that point, coach Biturajac opted to change 'keepers, removing starter Simon Sharples in favour of Farrugia.

"I just had a hunch," said Biturajac. "Andrew is a good athlete and he did make one save, but their goalie made three. It's heartbreaking, but what are you going to do?"

The outcome was just as frustrating on Wednesday for Christ the King's undefeated junior boys, who were edged at home 2-1 by Oakville's Iroquois Ridge in the Halton quarter-finals.

CTK's powerhouse junior girls' side won its opening-round playoff game on Tuesday, defeating St. Thomas Aquinas 5-0, and played a quarterfinal match against Abbey Park on Thursday. The senior Jaguars were knocked out of the post-season on Tuesday after an 8-1 loss to Assumption.

Elsewhere, Georgetown's senior girls, who finished the season in first place at 4-0-1, hosted M.M. Robinson of Burlington in a Halton AAAA semifinal match on Thursday and if victorious, will play the



Ryan Byrnes (right) of Christ the King's Jaguars duels with Burlington Nelson's T.J. Harb for the ball during a Halton high school AAA senior boys' quarter-final soccer contest in Georgetown on Wednesday. Nelson posted a mild upset by edging the hosts 4-3 in a penalty shootout.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Atkinson, Missy Rowley and Joanie Weaver supplied the Bearcat goals.

(Eamonn Maher can be reached at emaher@independentfreepress.com)

Local high schools send several athletes to OFSAA regionals

Several Halton Hills high school athletes qualified for the OFSAA regional meet in St. Catharines yesterday (Thursday) and today (Friday) after posting solid results at the Golden Horseshoe Athletic Conference track and field championships last Thursday at Nelson Stadium in Burlington.

The top five finishers in each event moved on to the Ontario Federation of School Athletic Association (OFSAA) South regionals, and from there, the first four placings will qualify for the provincial championships in Etobicoke June 1-3.

Highlights from the GHAC meet included first-place efforts by senior athletes from Acton District High School.

Jaimi Fellows won the high jump with a leap of 1.45 metres and the triple jump in

8.99m.

J.D. Hartnagle registered a toss of 13.55m for top spot in the senior boys' shot put at GHAC and also was first in the discus at 35.73m, while Kaitlyn Andrews was again victorious in the shot put (14.21m) and discus (41.01m).

Also qualifying for the South Regionals from Acton were: Cameron Shortt (2nd in midget boys' 3,000m, 10:34.54 and 3rd in 1,500m, 4:45); Ashley Macpherson (2nd in midget girls' triple jump, 8.16m); Rachel Amirault (3rd in midget girls' high jump, 1.40m); Alicia Manuel (5th in midget boys' high jump, 1.35m); Jenn Essiembre (2nd in junior girls' shot put, 8.42m & 5th in discus, 20.36m); Matt Bigg (3rd in junior boys' 1,500m, 4:42 & 3rd in 800m, 2:21.3); Norm

Tosh (4th in senior boys' shot put, 12.09m and 4th in discus, 30.40m); Dan Kearns (5th in senior boys' shot put, 11.75m and 5th in discus, 28.05m).

Megan Hynes headed up the charge for Georgetown's Christ the King, placing first in the midget girls' long jump in 4.24m tied for top spot in the high jump at 1.45m. Teammate Tara Bishop was best amongst the field in the midget girls' triple jump at 8.21m. CTK's Megan Milne was runner-up in the midget girls' 300m hurdles in 49.02 seconds. She was also third in both the 80m hurdles (0:16.70) and 800m (2:34.70).

Other CTK qualifiers included: Cameron Damota (1st in junior boys' 300m hurdles, 44.05); Jack Matthews (1st in midget boys' javelin, 31.18m and 2nd in shot put,

11.41m); Andrew Hawkins (2nd in midget boys' long jump, 5.17m); Andrea Legere (3rd in midget girls' 300m hurdles, 54.83 and 4th in 80m hurdles, 16.00); Devon MacArthur (3rd in junior girls' discus, 21.03m); Elliot Montag (3rd in midget boys' discus, 28.89m and 5th in shot put, 10.67m); Courtney Johnson (2nd in junior girls' javelin); Brittney Mortimer (4th in junior girls' discus, 20.60m and 4th in javelin, 16.84m); Marc Drake (3rd in midget boys' javelin, 27.96m); Stephanie Whitlock (5th in midget girls' javelin, 18.55m); Sean Bowen (5th in junior boys' 800m, 2:15.50); Reiner Schmidt (3rd in junior boys' 100m hurdles, 16.63 and 4th in 300m hurdles,

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