

SPORTS & LEISURE



Me and my shadow

Christ the King's Albert Kuczkowski (right) is tracked down by a Lester B. Pearson player during a Halton Division II boys' high school rugby contest last week. Visiting Pearson scored an early try and stood firm, posting a 13-0 victory over the 0-3-1 Jaguars. The Georgetown Rebels improved to 2-2 this season with a 28-0 triumph over Milton on Friday.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

High school roundup

Bearcats claim consolation crown

A 1-0 triumph over Port Credit clinched the consolation title for the Acton Bearcats at a senior girls' high school soccer tournament in Burlington last week. The Bearcats lost 3-0 to T.A. Blakelock of Oakville and defeated Robert Bateman 5-1 to earn a spot in the third-place game.

MVP Lindsey Atkinson (3), Tori Petersen, Renee Martineau and Julia Soderholm were the Acton goal scorers, with teammates Emma Jolly and captain Kirsten Lowe controlling the midfield. Goalie Nicole Pitre kept a clean

score sheet for the Bearcats, who have claimed two tourney championships in the last two years.

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A couple of Halton Hills boys' doubles teams had short stays at the recent OFSAA badminton championships in Waterloo.

Acton's Mike Kosziwka and Sanford Mick won their first match but dropped the next two and were eliminated, while Georgetown's Ian Buist and Mark Walkington also had an early exit.

Peewee II Bulldogs collect first field victory

Playing mostly against level one competition, the Halton Hills Peewee #2 Bulldogs have recently recorded their first win in Ontario Minor Field Lacrosse action.

Halton Hills 8, Newmarket 3: Cory Highfield (3G); Cody Menzies (2G); Jacob Hector (G, A); Matt Haynes, Stevie Rosa (G); Reece Shaw (3A); Theo Dol (2A); James Heslinga (A); Quinn Harding (W).

Mimico 11, Halton Hills 5: Menzies (2G); Highfield (G, 3A); Haynes, Teagan Gilian (G);

Hector, Heslinga (A).

Clarington 5, Halton Hills 3: Connor Mayner (2G); Highfield (G); Heslinga (2A); Menzies (A).

West Durham 9, Halton Hills 3: Gilian (G, A); Mayner, Highfield (G); Adam Dobis, Heslinga (A).

Oshawa #2 5, Halton Hills 4: Dylan Reid, Dol, Haynes, Mayner (G); Matthew Hopson (2A); Gilian (A).

Mimico 9, Halton Hills 4: Dol, Shaw, Menzies, Gilian (G); Mayner (2A); Haynes (A).

Chapman celebrates fourth NLL title win

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

Having been jobbed out of home-floor advantage for Saturday night's National Lacrosse League championship game thanks to a scheduling conflict, Acton native Sandy Chapman and the Rochester Nighthawks decided to spoil the party for some 10,000 fans of the Arizona Sting by capturing the Champion's Cup with a 13-11 victory.

The Nighthawks finished the regular season with an NLL-best 14-2 record, then eliminated Chapman's former team, the Toronto Rock, in the opening round of playoffs before getting through to the final by squeaking past Buffalo in the semis in front of a raucous Rochester crowd.

But because a circus had been booked into the Nighthawks' home base, the Blue Cross Arena, months in advance and television commitments prevented the game time from being moved, the 9-7 Sting were named hosts of the Champion's Cup match and chose to play at the flashy Glendale facility outside Phoenix, rather than at a neutral site closer to upstate New York.

"It's too bad that we couldn't have won it at home for our fans, but it was a great experience to be a part of because of the talented team we have," said the 26-year-old Chapman from his Burlington residence Monday night.

"There were about 30 or 40 of our diehard fans who flew down to Arizona, so it was great to meet with them and show them the cup afterward. Rochester doesn't get the crowds that Toronto does but our fans are passionate and they'd never won it before and it was time to reward them for their support."

Fans in Rochester will have to wait a couple of weeks for any sort of public celebration, however, as most of the team members live in southern Ontario and fly out of Buffalo. Chapman, who earned his fourth

league playoff title after three Champion's Cup runs with the Rock, would like to stay with Rochester, but the NLL's expansion into Boston next season may mean another change of teams for the valuable defender, whose job it is to shut down the opposition's left-handed shooter.

Chapman accomplished that efficiently in Saturday's finale, in which the Nighthawks built an 11-6 lead early in the fourth quarter, before having to hold off a Sting rally. Georgetown's Peter Veltman tallied twice for Arizona yet was thwarted by a Chapman team again in the NLL championship after the Sting lost to Toronto in the 2005 final. Another local resident, Brian Beisel, was also on that winning Rock squad and suited up for Arizona on Saturday.

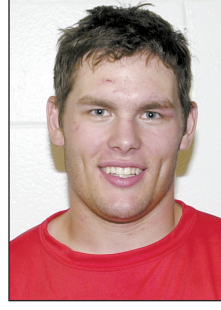
"I guess it's nice to be the king of Halton Hills," chuckled the 5-foot-9, 180-pound Chapman, whose defensive duties limited him to just two goals all season.

One of those goals came in the playoff semifinal against Buffalo in the late stages of the fourth quarter that keyed Rochester's furious 14-13 comeback win, capped by star scorer John Grant's overtime marker.

"I don't get too many chances to jump up into the offence and it was just a great opportunity for me to contribute in some way," he added. "There are usually no worries if I don't get any points in my mind because like it was in the final, I've been playing strictly a defensive role and hopefully I've found a niche on this team. I'd love to go back for another year, but we'll see what happens in the off-season."

Chapman is about to complete his Masters degree in hypertension at Brock University in St. Catharines and plans on taking a two-year graduate program at the University of Toronto's School of Nursing beginning in September.

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



SANDY CHAPMAN

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