

SPORTS AND LEISURE

Wildcats ready to
celebrate milestone

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High school teams get a taste of European hockey

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Although they didn't cross paths during their recent tour of three European countries, the varsity boys' hockey teams from Georgetown District High School and Christ the King shared similarly memorable experiences, both on and off the ice.

CtK's Jaguars completed their 10-day trip just as the GDHS Rebels embarked on their tour of Austria, Germany and the Czech Republic, with both arranging travel through the International Sports Tours company.

The teams played four games apiece and were able to visit several historic landmarks during their stay, while most of the players also got their first exposure to European hockey.

For the Jaguars, who just started up their varsity boys' hockey program last year, their opening game proved to be somewhat shocking as their opponents from Nymburk, Germany were less than gracious hosts, challenging their Canadian visitors to a brawl.

"We couldn't believe it. All they wanted to do was fight the Canadians," said CtK head coach Scott Van de Valk, whose squad lost 9-5.

"With about a minute left, their coach sent their bench, we held ours and that's when the game ended. It was pretty wild, (but) it was anything that we instigated. It was definitely a highlight only because you had to wonder, 'Wow, what's going on here?'"

The Jags also played outdoors during a rainstorm against the Austrian Red Bulls and won, then faced another weak Austrian side and decided to exchange players midway through the game to keep things competitive.

In its final stop, Christ the King defeated a Czech Republic side 5-4 on a late goal by Blake Seaton.

Meanwhile, the Georgetown Rebels went 1-2-1 in their games, including two meetings against Czech opposition.

Head coach Glenn Austin said a day of skiing in the Alps was among the highlights, as well as the conclusion of the Rebels' game in Austria, when players from each team danced together on the ice, exchanging jerseys and having a group photo taken.

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*Police 'ice'
Bearcats*

Acton District High School Bearcats' captain Cody Rosell (top photo) chips a shot past goaltender Brad Brand and defender Barry Hughes of the Halton Regional Police team during the annual exhibition game between the two at the Acton Arena. Detective Sergeant Brand also surrendered a goal (left) Bearcat Dan Kearns (17) on a breakaway that evened the score at four, but the police squad eventually prevailed in the contest by an 11-7 count.

Photos by Ted Brown

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