

SPORTS & LEISURE

Unbeaten after four games

'Dogs continue winning ways

EAMONN MAHER
Staff Writer

The way in which the Halton Hills Jr. B Bulldogs are piling up goals and victories early in this Ontario Lacrosse Association season, some might think the opposition has been a little on the soft side.

With a 4-0-0 start, the Bulldogs lead the OLA East Conference in a number of offensive categories, averaging almost 15 goals scored per game, while individually Pat Saunders has already racked up 19 goals and 12 assists.

Halton Hills' head coach Blaine McCauley doesn't spend a lot of time discussing statistics, however, and while pleased with the play of his team so far, he pointed to Sunday's game against winless Mississauga as an example of the increasing parity in the loop.

The Bulldogs took an early 2-0 lead over the now 0-6-0 Tomahawks in Clarkson Arena on Sunday afternoon, only to finish the first period tied at three. Five goals in seven minutes restored control for the 'Dogs en route to an 11-6 win, setting up a showdown with the 4-0-0 Green Gaels in Bowmanville on Thursday night.

"I look at how this league is balanced and there are no easy games out there. I don't think people realize that," McCauley said. "People might say

that we haven't been tested yet. We can't worry about what people think, just show up and do what we're capable of and we'll continue to do well and get better each game."

Sunday's tilt included five more goals for Saunders and the return to the Bulldog lineup for goalie Mike Cregan, a local resident who spent last season with the Peterborough Jr. A Lakers. Cregan played for Halton Hills in the 2006 season and figures to share the current goaltending duties with Colton Horan.

Rookie Michael Lacata notched a hat trick versus Mississauga and Kyle Davis added a pair, with Kody Lyons also finding the net.

On Saturday night, a franchise-record home-opening crowd of about 700 spectators took in the Bulldogs' 9-7 victory over the Newmarket Saints, a contest that wasn't as close as the score indicates.

Halton Hills led 6-0 at the midway point of the game before the Saints showed some spark and outscored the hosts 4-3 in the final frame. Nic Grasby (2), Saunders (2), Davis (2), Chad Cummings, Evan Whillans and Licata were the Bulldog marksmen.

Thursday's trip to Bowmanville will be a rematch of last summer's OLA East finals, in which the Green Gaels swept the Bulldogs. The Green Gaels went undefeated through the entire 2007 campaign before falling to Six Nations in the provincial finals.

Also this week, the Bulldogs will host the Nepean Knights Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at the Alcott Arena.



Rebel with a cause

Aaron Francis (left) of Georgetown's junior boys' rugby squad gets set to tackle a Hamilton Cathedral player on Friday in a high school matchup. The host Rebels pounded their opposition 37-12 to improve to 2-0 in league play, receiving tries from Devon Pellart, Shawn Fawcett, Brett Harris, Jason Henchel, Devon Cook and Colin Patjas, along with converts and penalty kicks by Jamie Dowell. Georgetown's seniors are also unbeaten after beating Cathedral 19-5. David Vankooten and Rob Cutting have led the Rebel charge.

Photo by Eamonn Maher



Goalie Michael Cregan of the Halton Hills Bulldogs was victorious in his 2008 debut, an 11-6 win over the host Mississauga Tomahawks on Sunday in Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B action.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

Hurricane taken 19th in OHL draft

Belleville Bull-ish on Silas

EAMONN MAHER
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For the second year in a row, the Belleville Bulls have taken a Georgetown resident as one of their top draft picks in Saturday's Ontario Hockey League Priority Selection.

Fifteen-year-old Stephen Silas was selected 19th overall by the pleasantly surprised Bulls, who figured that the quick-thinking, slick-skating defender would have been taken earlier in the first round by another club.

"There was lots of talk that I would go to Windsor or Sault Ste. Marie, but I'm glad I ended up where I am. These things happen for a reason," said Silas Monday from his Georgetown South home.

Prior to the draft, which is conducted online, Belleville's scouting staff had focused on

choosing a forward with their first pick. They had rated Silas in the middle of the first round and quickly changed their minds about drafting for positional need when the Grade 10 Christ the King student was still available.

"We like his size, skating and mobility," said Bulls' head coach and general manager George Burnett. "He plays with grit. I think he'll be a real compliment to our group. He was clearly the best player available when we selected. We feel strongly he's a guy who can step in next year and contribute."

The Olympic-size ice surface in Belleville's Yardmen Arena would appear to be tailor-made for Silas's talents. With the Halton minor midget AAA Hurricanes this past season, the 6-foot, 175-pound left shooter had 25 goals and 77 points in 73 games, along with 69 penalty minutes. He

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STEVE SILAS

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