

SPORTS & LEISURE

Bulldogs behind the eight-ball after lopsided losses to Rebels

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Staff Writer

A pair of weekend losses to the Six Nations Rebels has put the Halton Hills Bulldogs on the brink of elimination in their best-of-5 Ontario Lacrosse Association Jr. B championship series.

The host Bulldogs were able to keep close to the powerhouse Rebels through much of the first two periods on Sunday evening, but with Six Nations leading 4-2, the visitors scored while two men short and quickly added a power-play marker to seize control of the contest, eventually winning 10-2.

Mike Burke and Pat Saunders had the Halton Hills goals in the middle stanza as they outshot the Rebels 14-12. The hosts appeared to have the momentum until Alex Kedoh Hill's backbreaking goal with 1:34 left in the period while two of his teammates were serving minor penalties.



Mike Brown (44) of the Halton Hills Bulldogs has his scoring bid blocked by Six Nations goalie Randy Johnson during game two of the 2008 OLA Jr. B championship series at the Alcott Arena. Johnson and his Rebel teammates were dazzling at times in a 10-2 triumph over the Bulldogs and took a 2-0 lead in the best-of-5 matchup.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

In game one Friday night in Ohsweken, the 'Dogs opened the scoring on a goal by Kody Lyons, but the Rebels, who have lost just three games all season, replied with four straight goals and cruised to a 12-3 victory.

Chad Cummings and Saunders added third-period markers for the OLA East Conference champion Bulldogs. The series winner moves on to next week's Founders Cup national Jr. B championship in Guelph.

"The first game we were caught flat-footed. It's an intimidating place to play in down there and I think we were a little bit in awe," said Bulldogs' coach Blaine McCauley.

"Maybe at the start, we played like we were satisfied with winning the East Conference title because we're a relatively young team, but once things got going and our guys realized they're playing for a spot in the national championship, we've adjusted and stepped up our play. I didn't think the score (in game two) was indicative of how the game went because we were making things happen in the second period.

"This isn't the position we want to be in, down 2-0 going to Six Nations, and people are saying we're in an impossible situation, but we've been in this situation before. I know we're not going to quit."

It's the third consecutive series in which the Bulldogs have faced elimination, after coming back from 2-1 deficits against Clarington and Mimico. Six Nations, however, has few weaknesses and when the Bulldogs were able to break through for scoring opportunities, Rebel goaltender Randy Johnson was solid, making 43 saves in game two.

Halton Hills couldn't score on the power play despite having several chances and gave up three empty net goals in the final minutes of the game in a comeback attempt.

"You've got to give (Six Nations) credit," added McCauley.

"They're an older team that won the national championship last year. They've been through it all and know what it takes to come out on top in difficult situations. We're trying to find that new level and we're getting there. All we can ask is that our players continually try to get better as the series goes along. If we can get a win (tonight) we're right back in the series."

Game three of the series will be played tonight (Wednesday) at the Gaylord Powless Arena beginning at 8 p.m. If game four is required, it will take place Friday at Georgetown's Alcott Arena at 8 p.m.

Sharp netminding powers Peewee II Bulldogs to Ontario title

Solid goaltending by Tyler Anderson helped seal the tournament title for the Halton Hills peewee #2 Bulldogs at the Ontario Lacrosse Association peewee D championships in Whitby recently, capped by a 6-4 win in the final over North Perth.

Preliminary round— Halton Hills 14, Six Nations 4; Halton Hills 12, Shelburne 1; Halton Hills 10, Kingston 3

Quarterfinals— Halton Hills 6, Kemptville 2

Semifinals— Halton Hills 6, Oakville 5



TASHA TRUSCOTT

Truscott caps season in spectacular style

Having had her national age group record for the 100-metre butterfly broken last month, Georgetown swimmer Tasha Truscott set the bar lower yet again at the North American Challenge Cup last week in Edmonton, completing another spectacular season.

The 14-year-old earned a gold medal in Thursday's 100m long course butterfly for the 13-14 girls' division in a time of 1:01.12, eclipsing her previous best mark of 1:02.31 set in February. Winnipeg's Chantal Vanlandeghem had broken Truscott's Canadian record last month, and while Vanlandeghem's time of 1:01.43 on Thursday was her career best, it was only good for second place at the Challenge Cup.

"I was just determined to get it again," said Truscott who has switched from the Halton Hills Blue Fins to the Etobicoke Swim Club and begins classes at Silverthorn Collegiate next month.

"In my race (tonight) I had a great start and my turns and dolphin kicks were very strong."

Overall at the meet, Truscott earned five gold medals, a silver and a bronze, setting two other personal-best times as a result.

The Grade 10 student picked up a gold medal and a personal-best clocking in the 50m freestyle in 0:26.76, while also taking top spot in the 200m butterfly (2:20.98).

She swam to a career best time in preliminaries for the 100m freestyle in 0:58.62, but settled for silver in the final. Truscott was also on Canadian relay teams that finished first in the 400m individual medley and 4x100m freestyle. Her 4x200m freestyle team took bronze medals.

Canada won the overall team competition, ahead of Southern California, Team Pacific and Team Mexico.

Championship— Halton Hills 6, North Perth 4

Tournament scoring: Ryan Childs (11G, 12A); Matthew Hodgins (10G, 10A); Quinn Harding (8G, 6A); Brodie Briscoe (5G, 7A); Jessie Laidlaw (3G, 7A); Nicholas Whelan (4G, A); Chase Pries (3G, 4A); Justin Albert, Ty Cadeau (3G, 3A); Matthew Goldmann (2G, A); John Gilmour, Nicholas Johnston, Brad Murphy (G, A); Daniel Gravelle (A).

• See photo page 15



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