

SPORTS & LEISURE



Christ the King Jaguar defender Chris King (32) brings a Robert Bateman player to a halt during their Halton high school gridiron matchup this past week. King was also called on to perform kicking duties for the 5-0 Jags in their 20-7 win.

Photo by Eamonn Maher

High school roundup

Stingy, unbeaten Jaguars happy in the underdog role

If he had his preference, running back Dan Rovere would continue to be Christ the King High School's touchdown-scoring machine— just without the fanfare that comes with it.

The fifth-year standout was recently named the *Toronto Star's* male high school athlete of the week after rushing for four major scores in one game for the undefeated senior Jaguar football team and he's often congratulated away from the field by fellow students and spectators whose names aren't familiar to him.

"My teammates still give me a hard time about it. But it's been fun, it's nice," said the 18-year-old Rovere.

"It's good to be the quiet team that nobody talks about. You hear people on the radio (the FAN 590's Sunday morning high school show) discussing the best teams in Halton and we're not even mentioned. That's okay. I know our whole team is hungry for a championship and I like being considered the underdog."

Over the past couple of weeks, however, it's Rovere's injured ankle that has become the centre of attention at CtK as he suffered a sprain in a muddy 3-1 win over Holy Trinity during a recent home game in Georgetown.

The 5-0 Jags, whose defence has allowed just 31 points in their five starts, are definitely no slouch without Rovere, as they beat Robert Bateman of Burlington 20-7 last week.

But they'll face a couple of 4-1 teams on the road to finish up the regular season— today (Friday) against St. Thomas Aquinas of Oakville and next Friday in Burlington versus the Nelson Lords— likely without the shifty running style of the 5-foot-10, 170-pound Rovere.

"He's our go-to guy and he's proven it with the nine touchdowns he's scored in three games," said Harris.

"When he's out, it certainly hurts. We're hoping to have him back for the last game of the season against Nelson, but it's on a day-to-day basis. The encouraging part is that we've got some good replacements and guys have stepped up in Dan's absence."

Tyler Fram, David Green and David Pryztula scored the Jaguar touchdowns in last week's triumph over Bateman, with Chris King kicking two converts in place of the injured Billy Pavlopoulos, who is expected to return to action shortly.

Defensively, the Jags are led by Elliot Montag, Zach Fitterer, Fram, Green, King and Brendan Gallagher.

The top four teams in the Halton Secondary School Athletic Association standings will qualify for the Division One playoffs in early November and CtK's seniors are hoping to host a semifinal playoff game if they can remain undefeated, along-

side powerhouse Notre Dame of Burlington. The second tier of playoff participants could include the 2-3 Georgetown Rebels, who played at Holy Trinity yesterday (Thursday) afternoon.

Christ the King's seniors won the Division Two HSSAA crown a couple of years ago in a thrilling victory over rival Georgetown and they came close to making the Division One final last season.

The Jags' elevation to contender status among the Halton heavyweights is due in large part to the guidance of head coach Harris, who was second runner-up for the Toronto Argonauts' 2007 Leo Cahill Award.

The award is given to volunteers involved with the grassroots development of high school football in the GTA region, which for Harris also included stints at Notre Dame and Assumption in Burlington.

"It's a great help to have the right people working with the team and that's what we have here," said Harris. "It's a big leap to have won Division Two a couple of years ago and then to be a contender in Division One pretty much right away. We're fortunate to have a group of people who have great interest in high school football and really care about it."

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For provincial tourney

Under-19s are top 'Dogs

Needing to win all three of their games on Sunday in order to clinch top spot in Ontario, the Halton Hills under-19 Bulldogs pulled off the trifecta and will now enter this weekend's provin-

cial championship in Mississauga as the number-one seed.

The 10-2-0 'Dogs had never beaten perennial powerhouse Oshawa in under-19 competition dating back to 2001, yet they beat the Blue Knights twice in one day-4-3 and 10-5-to secure first place in the Ontario Men's Field Lacrosse League's Division One.

Halton Hills also defeated Brampton 9-4 to complete the regular season.

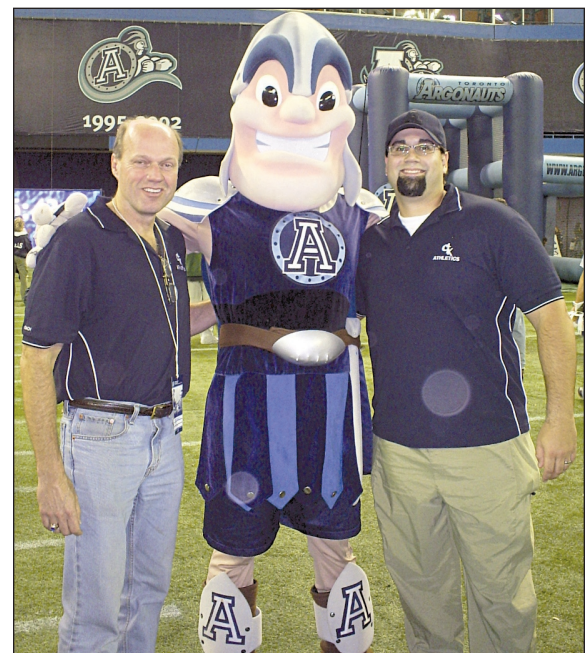
The OJMFL final four is set for Sunday at Mississauga's Hershey Fields, with the Bulldogs facing Niagara in one semifinal starting at noon, and Oshawa taking on Orangeville. The championship match will take place at 4:30 p.m. One of the two Halton Hills' losses came against Niagara in week three of the season.

Runner's name omitted

In the results from the Halton Catholic District School Board's 2008 elementary cross-country running championships published in last week's *Independent & Free Press*, the name of a racing-winning Halton Hills athlete was omitted.

Anthony Grillo of St. Brigid's Catholic School in Georgetown South crossed the finish line first in the bantam boys' division A category at the event held at Bronte in Burlington.

The *Independent & Free Press* regrets the error.



Christ the King senior football head coach Mike Harris (left) was honoured at a Toronto Argonaut game at Rogers Centre as second runner-up for the Leo Cahill Award for his dedication to the sport at the high school level. Also in the photo are Argo mascot Jason and CtK special teams' coach Timm Stephenson. Submitted photo

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