

Bruce Trail girls eclipsed in first trip to Tier 2 final



MICHAEL IVANIN / SPECIAL TO THE CHAMPION

HEARTBREAK SHOWS THROUGH: Bruce Trail's Christa Bell (left) and Brooklyn Harding can't hide their disappointment at losing the final by the narrowest of margins.

Underdog Blazers' comeback bid falls short against MSB 'Stangs

The glass slipper fell just a little too early on the Bruce Trail Blazers' Cinderella season.

Needing a tie-breaking victory just to make north Halton's Tier 2 playoffs, the lady cagers nearly turned their first post-season appearance into gold — upstaging cross-town rival W.I. Dick in the semifinals and then pushing Acton's Mackenzie Smith-Bennett Mustangs to the limit in last week's championship at Milton District High School.

Hopes of upsetting the defending champs were finally dashed with the Mustangs draining three free throws in the final minute to eclipse Bruce Trail 24-22.

Powered by a 13-point night from Natalie Samuels, the Blazers held a couple of fourth-quarter leads and looked poised to pull off a major

comeback after being blanked 7-0 in the first quarter.

Krista Bell hit a pair of second-half shots — including one early in the fourth to put the underdogs ahead — while Annalyn Tagadtad made good on three free throws and Jenique Ricketts snapped the Mustangs' early tear with Bruce Trail's initial basket.

Brookville's Tier 2 boys championship loss was equally heartbreaking, with Georgetown's Silver Creek Stars pulling out a 32-29 overtime decision.

The Bengals jumped out to an 8-0 lead, but ran into foul trouble down the stretch, resulting in significant changes to their attack and a less-than-stellar follow-up to their fierce start.

Still, Brookville managed to keep pace until the bitter end with an 11-point effort from Jacob Lane and an all-around spirited performance by Jordan McIntyre, who did an admirable job guarding the Stars' top shooter — and had noticeable success doing so for a few stretches.

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