

Cougars falter in the second half of their game against Erin

By Bill Rea

The Schomberg Cougars have demonstrated they can keep up with their opponents in the early stages of games. It's the later parts that are giving them trouble.

That was clearly the case Thursday when they hosted the Erin Shamrocks. The Cougars were trailing just 1-0 after one period, and they had the match tied after a couple of minutes in the second, when Jake Whelan was beautifully set up. Schomberg surrendered another goal about five minutes later, then the wheels came off the Cougar train late in the frame, and they were never re-attached.

The final score was 7-1.

The Shamrocks' first goal was a short-handed effort, and their last goal was

scored on the power play.

Erin solidly outshot the Cougars throughout the match, and for much of the third period they were controlling the puck at will in the Schomberg end.

Whelan's play was one of the few bright spots, and he was appropriately pleased to get his first junior C goal. Veteran Todd Cantelon drew an assist on the scoring play, but Whelan gave a tip of his helmet to linemate Keith Thomson, who was effectively able to decoy the defence out of the play and "give me a lot more room."

The 16-year-old Tottenham resident was playing rep hockey in the TNT system last year.

"We came hard out of the gate," he observed, adding Erin "came out harder."

He was also a little philosophical about the Shamrocks, pointing out they get to play each other five more times.

"Jake had a good game," observed Head Coach Gary Waldrum. "He stepped up and showed some of the potential we see in him."

Despite the score, the coach was impressed with the work of goalie Cory Shody, who faced 40 shots, compared to the 12 fired at his opponent at the other end of the rink.

"We know we have a lot of work to do," Waldrum remarked, adding the numerous rookies in the dressing room have not yet grasped what it takes to win at this level.

"Junior C is very underrated hockey," he observed. "It takes a while to realize

the price you have to pay to compete."

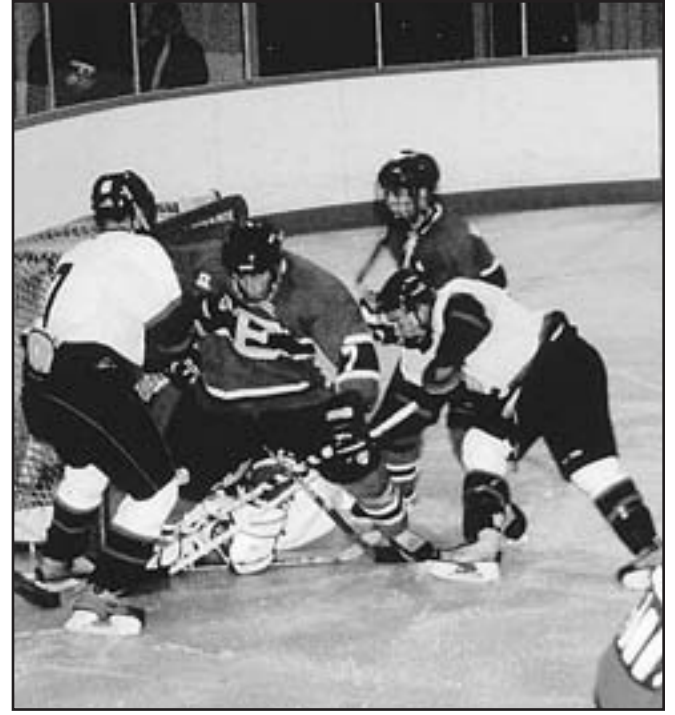
Thursday's was the only game of the week for the club, and Waldrum was hoping that would give a couple of his injured men a bit more time to heal.

"Giving them a long time to think about this game might not be a bad thing," he added.

The Cougars ended the week in sixth place in the Georgian Mid-Ontario division standings with three points.

They return to action tomorrow (Thursday) night, when they host the Fergus Devils, starting at 8:15 p.m.

They will be on the road Sunday as they travel north to Stayner for an afternoon contest with the Siskins. The puck will drop at 1:30 p.m.



Thomas Fairs and Joe Digirolamo were teaming up to put pressure on the Erin net in the second period of Thursday's contest.

Christopher Fasciano presented Community Coach Award

At this year's annual soccer dinner and dance the King City Youth Soccer Club named Christopher Fasciano as the second recipient of the award named in memory and honour of Wayne Lankester, one of the club's valued, volunteer coaches who died during the 2003 season.

Fasciano has been a coach with the club for nine years, and during some sea-

sons has taken on two teams.

Wayne, who was coaching one of the under-6 teams at the time of his death, exemplified the characteristics important to be a proper model to young soccer players. Not being a soccer player himself, Wayne took the time to learn the sport and never lost sight of the fact that this activity was for the children — to help them develop as players and indi-

viduals. He knew that being a volunteer coach in a recreational soccer program has very little to do with personal gains and that winning is only a small part of the players' development.

Wayne was diagnosed with cancer in February 2003 and rather than abandon his coaching activity for the season, he chose to again commit his time. During his previous seasons, he had

coached his older son Ryan. Coaching brought him much joy and he thrived on teaching, mentoring and setting a proper example for the children. He chose to do this during the 2003 season with his second son Brayden, this was important to Wayne. He lived up to his coaching commitment despite his ill health and was with the team one week before his passing.

To properly recognize Wayne's inspiration and dedication the King City Youth Soccer Club, with the cooperation of his wife Kelly, set up an award in his name. The inscription on the trophy is "Community Coach Award, in memory of Wayne Lankester (1957-2003), Best Dad in the World".

This title recognizes Wayne's contribution to soccer, as well as his devotion to his family. The soccer club will award this annually when a deserving candidate is nominated. The characteristics identified for nominees include willingness to volunteer, fairness, dependability, initiative, willingness to

improve, being respectful of the Code of Conduct, putting children and players first, and consistency of service.

The award was presented to Fasciano by Kelly Lankester Sept. 15. Kelly spoke of Wayne's commitment to his family and the children in soccer.

The King City Youth Soccer Club hopes this Community Coach Award will be proper recognition of deserving volunteers for years to come. It is also to be a fitting memory of Wayne Lankester's courage, character and his love of his own children and his players.



Christopher Fasciano (middle) was recently presented the Community Coach Award, in memory of Wayne Lankester. On hand for the presentation was King City Youth Soccer Club Head Coach Frank Miceli, Vice-President Bill Fortnum and Kelly Lankester.



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