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Thomas Faris and Shane Jones were trying to apply pressure on the Penetang net late in Thursday's contest.

## Tough times for Cougars after two losses

**By Bill Rea**  
 The Schomberg Cougars are in a slump, as the group of young players try to get on the same page.

The team fell 8-3 Thursday at home to the Penetang Kings, then dropped a 4-1 decision Friday night in Midland to the Flyers.

The side actually drew first blood Thursday, as they opened the scoring midway through the first period on a goal from Thomas Faris, assisted by Mitch Ronan and

Pat Homersham, but the Kings had things tied a little more than a minute later, and then notched three goals in the second to put the match out of reach. The Cougars were able to add a couple of markers in the third, but Penetang were able to get four of their own, including one in the last minute, to nail down the win.

Faris and Mike Shuryin were the marksmen, with assists going to Homersham, Shuryin, Matt Steenhoek and Shane Jones.

Head Coach Gary Waldrum later said this is a learning period for everyone, including players and coaches.

"We've still got a long way to go," he remarked. "It's a learning experience for all of us. I'm learning a lot, game by game."

The Cougars were outshot 48-20, and Waldrum said that was a little unusual, as they have been getting better in that department. He also said there were a "lot of mental errors and not sticking with the game plan they were given."

Thursday also marked the 10th game of the season for the club, and Waldrum said the next step will be to cut back on the errors. Some of the skaters might have to do time on the bench in order to

get the message, he remarked.

He didn't have a lot to say in light of the loss to Midland.

"We'll be looking at this stuff for a while," he commented. "It's a young team with a lot of rookies."

The Cougars are spending this week on the road. Tomorrow (Thursday) night, they will be travelling north to Stayner for a match with the Siskins, starting at 8:30 p.m. The next night, they will be in Fergus to play the devils, starting at 8:30 p.m.

## Pedestrian and cycling projects part of municipal partnership

York Regional council recently approved in principle a plan to develop a pedestrian and cycling municipal partnership program – a partnership with local municipalities and conservation authorities.

The program was the first major outcome of the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan Study adopted in 2006.

It calls for the Region to fund local pedestrian and cycling infrastructure projects in the amount of \$500,000 per year. This proposed funding will be included in the 10-Year Roads Capital Plan of the draft 2007 budget.

Council authorized regional staff to engage local municipalities and agencies in developing a policy for partnership, process, eligibility, ranking and administration.

Staff will report back to the planning and economic development committee of council early in the new year and follow up with the selection of proposed pedestrian and cycling infrastructure works eligible for Regional funding in 2007 and '08.

## Things brightening some for minor bantam Knights

**Submitted by Margarete Carr**  
 "Light at the end of the tunnel" is an often heard adage, and it's an apt description of where the NobleKing minor bantam Knights find themselves midway through the regular season.

The team had a strong start at the "Early-Bird" Brian Steele Memorial Tournament, where they finished first in their round robin with three straight wins, but were then eliminated in the semis.

But the regular season has been a tough start for the Knights.

Despite strong goaltending and a number of bright moments, there were no lucky bounces and goals were few and far between. This resulted in a string of losses in the first six games.

The seventh game, however, appeared to be our lucky number as we scored our first win, 2-0 against East Gwillimbury. A glimmer of hope emerged. In the next three games there was another win against Markham (3-2), a hard-fought and well-deserved tie against the strong Orillia team and one loss against Barrie. The Orillia game especially

showed great promise, as there was much improved and accurate passing, strong defensive efforts by Connor Anderson, Justen Favero, Marco Gerimnario and Dakota Marsham, amazing goaltending by Alex Harris and great penalty killing by "pesky" Justin Palleschi and Kurt Cumming.

On a positive note, during the season every single player, forward and defence, have had at least one goal or assist. It is truly the group effort that determines our success and it's not due to a few superstar scorers. Top scoring honours (regular season so far) go to Captain Taylor Jenkins (with eight points), Andrew Carr (seven), Cameron Boyce (five),

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