

Cougars to face Alliston Hornets in first round of play offs

By Bill Rea

It wasn't the greatest way to end the regular season, but the Schomberg Cougars put up two valiant efforts to close out the campaign last week in the Georgian Mid-Ontario division of the Ontario Hockey Association.

Thursday saw them in a tight contest against the second-place Penetang Kings, turning in a solid effort, but falling one goal short for a 6-5 final.

Saturday's contest, in which they hosted Erin Shamrocks, was an even and well-played affair, until penalties intervened. The second period saw 11 minor penalties being assessed against the Cougars to three

going to the Shamrocks. The hosts were obliged to spend much of the frame playing two men short, and that was too much of a burden for the best of teams to handle. Erin potted five goals in that period, en route to a 10-3 final.

Head Coach Gary Waldrum refused to blame the officiating, commenting that a lack of discipline needed to stay out of the penalty box is what took the team out.

On the other hand, the fact that they otherwise showed they can play with their opponents was a positive side as they face a post-season series with the Alliston Hornets. There was definite improvement, in the

coach's eye, from the last couple of weeks.

"The difference, that you see, is with a full line-up, we can compete," he commented after the Erin game. "If we can be disciplined, we'll have everything we need to compete."

Brady Sluman, Mitch Ronan and Jake Whelan got the Schomberg goals Saturday, with Joe Digirolamo, Dan Naccarato, Mat Steenhoek, Todd Cantelon and Pat Homersham drawing assists. The first period, which ended with the score 1-1, was a pretty even affair, with Erin having a slight 14-12 advantage in shots. It was in the second, when the penal-

ties came at a steady clip, that the game was decided, with Erin outshooting Schomberg 21-10 and getting five goals to the Cougars' one. The damage was pretty-well done by the time the third period rolled around, with the Shamrocks outshooting the hosts 16-8 and outscoring them 4-1.

But there was a lot to see that Waldrum liked in Thursday's match against the Kings, as he said his men never gave up and proved a willingness to be there against the foes. That was demonstrated in the third period, in which Schomberg outshot Penetang 10-3.

Naccarato led the scoring attack with two markers,

while singles were notched by Steenhoek (short-handed), Blake Elliot and Mike Shuryn. Logan Artindale assisted on three of the goals, Digirolamo helped out on two and Naccarato and Ronan drew one assist apiece.

The side now looks forward to the start of the Alliston series, which will get under way tomorrow (Thursday) in Schomberg, starting at 8:15 p.m.

This will be a best-of-seven series, which will resume Friday night in Alliston at 8:30 p.m., followed by a 3:30 Sunday matinee in Alliston. The fourth game is set for next Thursday (Feb. 15) in

Schomberg, staring at 8:15 p.m.

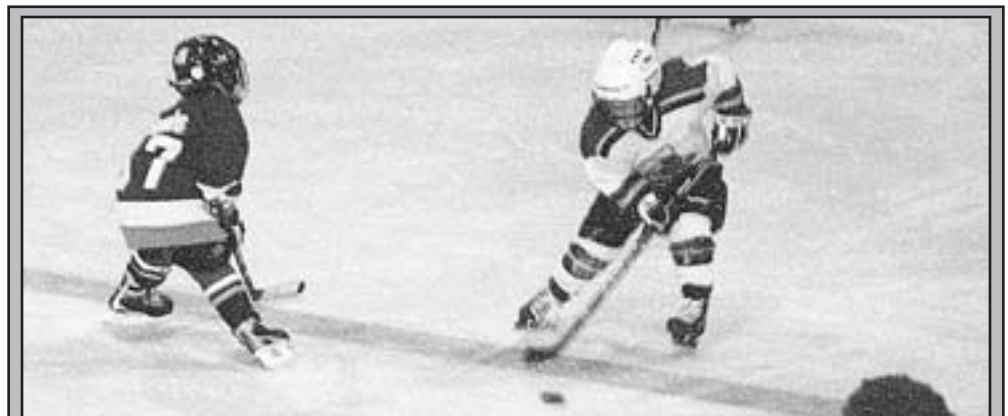
A fifth game, if necessary, is set for Feb 18 in Alliston at 7:30 p.m., and the timing of the other two games had not been finalized at press time. They are tentatively set for Feb. 20 in Schomberg and Feb. 22 in Alliston.

"Our game plan really doesn't change," Waldrum said. "As long as we challenge and are disciplined enough to ignore any adversities that come up, we have a chance to upset them."

The Cougars have finished the regular season in sixth place with 14 points, five up on the Midland Flyers. Alliston finished third with 56.



Jake Whelan was knocked off balance, but he was still able to get his shot away for Schomberg's third goal Saturday night against Erin. Pat Homersham and Todd Cantelon were at the net, drawing assists on the play.



TYKE KNIGHTS SPLIT LATEST GAMES

The NobleKing tyke 3 team, sponsored by Ravinie Mushroom Farm, had little trouble handling their foes from Oak Ridges in last Saturday's match in Nobleton. The local folks prevailed 3-0, but things didn't go quite as well for the Knights Saturday. They were blanked by their Oak Ridges guests.



A few drinking football fans nabbed by RIDE

York Regional Police reports most people celebrating the Super Bowl Sunday made sensible choices, but there were some drivers who still risked their safety and the safety of others by drinking and driving.

The Super Bowl Reduce Impaired Driving Everywhere (RIDE) effort saw enhanced officer deployment from Friday to late Sunday evening at various locations across the region, targeting areas where Super Bowl celebrations were expected.

There were 3,054 vehicles stopped at spot checks, with three motorists arrested for being impaired and 10 others who had their licences suspended for 12 hours. District officers charged another nine with

impaired driving and suspended the licences of 13.

Police said citizens continue to assist them in the battle against impaired driving. Over the weekend, 11 calls were made to 9-1-1 reporting possible impaired drivers resulting, in one arrest.

Shortly after midnight Sunday, a driver lost control of his vehicle on Main Street, Unionville, in Markham, and came to rest on the front lawn of a Markham Fire station. Witnesses immediately called 9-1-1 and the driver was arrested.

RIDE runs all year and is enhanced during the festive season and other special occasions.

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