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Cougars season ends with 4-0 sweep at hands of Penetang

By Jon Yaneff

It was a hard-fought battle the whole way, but the Schomberg Cougars' inexperience was evident as the team was swept 4-0, in their best-of-seven Georgian Mid-Ontario (division of the Ontario Hockey Association) series against the Penetang Kings.

The Cougars played the closest game of the series in the final contest Thursday night at home, as the Kings doubled-up Schomberg, 6-3.

Penetang got the early lead 52 seconds in the first period, as Lenny Robillard potted a goal with Ryan Giesler assisting.

The Cougars then tied the game at 6:34 of the first with Adam Green (assisted by Dan Naccaratto) beating Kings' Corey Moore.

After that, the Cougars ran into penalty trouble and Penetang took advantage by scoring three power-play goals as the first came about the halfway mark (10:02) of the period when Brad Baum

(assisted by Shayne Weight and Adam Heskamp) chipped the puck towards the net as it just barely got by Cougar goaltender Aaron Green.

Kelly Loughran (assisted by Wendel Jacobs and Evan Cole) and Marc Duquette (assisted by Greg Cerilli) added to the Kings' lead to give them a 4-1 advantage heading into the second period.

Cougar forward Enrico Ferri (assisted by Naccaratto) tried to mount the comeback for his team by notching a goal 42 seconds into the second, but Penetang put the game out of reach with two more goals from Bradyn Parent (assisted by Cole) and Craig Speers (assisted by Kevin Imhoff and Baum)

The Cougars' Justin Brooks finished the game's scoring with about two minutes left in the second period as he exploded on a pass from goalie Green.

Not much went on in the

third as the Cougars only managed one shot in the period, and were out shot 47-18 overall in the game.

Green had 41 saves in Game 4 as he kept his team in the game as well as for the majority of the series.

"There was a lot of emotion and compassion shown throughout the entire series," said Green, 17, who was playing in his first playoff series of his junior C career. "We have to give our players a lot of credit for sticking around even though we were losing games, that shows a lot."

"We have no complaints on how we finished the game," said Cougars Head Coach Gary Waldrum. "The series was good experience for our young players. We're in good shape right now for the future as long as our players stick together and continue to work hard."

Next season is the 40th anniversary for the Cougars franchise and the team will be searching for trainers,

coaches throughout the community to help them out. The team expects 10-12 returning players and will also make additions at the beginning of the season.

The majority of the

Cougars players this season were 17 and 18-years-old, and only carried two over-aged, 21-year-olds, whereas four is the option most teams in the league took advantage of.

If necessary Schomberg would have continued the series at home Saturday at 6:45 p.m., instead the Cougars had an optional scrimmage to raise money for the team.



Dan Naccaratto let this shot fly in Thursday's decisive match against Penetang. Owing to age restrictions, it was the last game in a Cougar uniform for him and Shane Jones.

Wild split last two games of season, now face Douro in first round of playoffs

By Jon Yaneff

The King Wild ended the regular season in eighth place in the Greater Metro Junior A Hockey League (GMHL) after splitting their two weekend games.

They will now face the Douro Dukes in the first round of the playoffs.

Saturday night saw the Wild being able to outlast half-hearted officiating to squeak past the Espanola Kings 6-5 in a spirited affair in King. They hung on,

despite finding themselves shorthanded during the last six minutes of the game.

"That's the way it goes sometimes and you can't control what they do," said Wild Coach Sheldon Friske of the officiating after the game. "But, we were undisciplined and we're happy to get the two points."

After Espanola took the early one-goal lead on a goal from Mikita Fox (assisted by Phil Corbiere), the Wild went to work,

scoring four times to take a 4-1 lead going into the second period.

King tied the game on a short-handed goal from Dan Douglas (assisted by Marc Fortin), where the forward sped in on a breakaway and shelved the puck up high on Espanola goaltender Shane Buckley.

Matt Marchese (shorthanded), Anthony Simone (assisted by Brandon Beadow and Marchese) and David Manning (assisted by Marchese and Simone) had

the other goals in the period for the Wild.

It didn't take long for Espanola to mount a comeback as five seconds into the second period Espanola's Joey Rosenberg (assisted by Balazs Deifik) beat Wild goalie Craig Byford.

In between two more Espanola goals, Wild forward Steve Wicklum scored on a two-on-one with Keylan Marchant (also assisted by Chris Martella), as the Wild took a slim 5-4 lead into the third.

Daniel Aubut (assisted by Zane Pitawanakwat and Clancy McNeil) and Dustin Grant (assisted by Zack Bayer and Brandon McGregor) were the goal scorers for Espanola.

In the second period an altercation occurred where Manning shot the puck down the ice near Espanola's bench, and one of their guys hit him which forced Manning's stick to clip a Kings' player on the bench. Manning got a high-

sticking penalty, although his actions were unintentional, which proves the referees weren't always aware of the play in this game.

Simone (assisted by Michael Garvey) increased the Wild lead to two again, but the crafty Rosenberg (assisted by McNeil) made the game tighter toward the end. With Simone and Rosenberg's two goals each,

See 'Douro' on page 15



Anthony Simone was breaking out of his end Saturday night



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