

Sports

Bulls come out on top

Belleville takes 4-1 win against Oshawa Generals in Wednesday action

By David Zammit

Belleville Bulls captain Brendan Gaunce led his team to victory over their division rivals the Oshawa Generals on Wednesday night at the Yardmen Arena.

With the 4-1 win, the Bulls move one point ahead of Generals for top spot in the east division with 57 points. The attendance at the game was 2534.

Before the puck dropped, the Oshawa Generals held a one point lead on the Bulls in the east division. The Generals had played three more games coming into the game, with a record of 26-16-1-3. The Bulls record was 25-13-3-2.

The game started with some hard forechecking from both sides. Oshawa was the first to capitalize on its scoring chances. Lucas Lessio's shot led to a rebound right to an open Cole Cassels, who shoveled it though Malcolm Subban's five hole to score. This was his 13th goal of the season, at the 8:18 mark.

Bulls wasted no time responding with a goal of their own. Rookie Niki Petti found Bulls captain Gaunce, who rifled a snap shot past Altshuller to tie the game.

Both teams played hard for the rest of the period, which ended in a one all tie.

The second period was hard and physical. Both team tried to pull ahead. Stephen Silas walked over the blue line to the slot area and dropped it off for Gaunce, who wristed his second of the game, and 19th of the season, past Altshuller at 5:18 into the second period.

Going into the third, Bulls head into their dressing room with a lead of 2-1. Both goals were from captain Gaunce. Shots after two were 25-21 for the Bulls.

The Generals came out firing from all angles in the third period looking to tie the game, but Subban showed them why he was a first round draft pick, holding the Generals off.

The Bulls managed to catch a break when they were short-handed Joseph Cramarossa, fed a defence-man Jake Worrad at the point who walked into the top of the circle and



Photo by Justin Tang

Belleville Bulls' goaltender Malcolm Subban celebrates with fans after the team's win over the Generals Wednesday.

put one just under the bar by Altshuller, giving the Bulls a 3-1 lead with only 6:41 to play in the third period.

The Bulls kept firing on all cyl-

inders, as new addition Alan Quine won the faceoff against Generals captain Boone Jenner. The puck was loose just behind Quine when Cramarossa picked it up and wired

a laser past Altshuller's glove hand, making it 4-1 for the Bulls.

The Generals gave it all they had at the end of the 3rd period. But the Bulls held them off.

Lockout doesn't impact on fan loyalty

Many teams gained in ticket sales following 2005 non-season

By Evan Campbell

The stats show that NHL fans would likely show up to watch their favourite teams once the season got back in full swing after the 2012 lockout.

In the 2005 lockout, owners suspended an entire hockey season and it only boosted numbers in the year to come in most teams' situations.

A study in the years before and after the 2005 lockout showed that only nine teams lost attendance, and the biggest loss was 24 per cent. The other 21 teams had gains in their ticket sales, with the biggest being a gain of 26.2 per cent.

The overall average of all sales, lost and gained, was a gain of 1.9 per cent.

Out of the top five gains, three are in the US and two came from Canada. The top teams were Tampa Bay, Calgary, Ottawa, Phoenix and Anaheim. The next eight teams on the list are all from the US. It's not just Canada that loves the game of hockey.

With the season back and running, some fans want to get back out and enjoy the game of hockey, either at a bar, the arena or at home.

"I'm going to watch every game I can, I've missed hockey for seven months and I'm going to take in every second I can," said Mike Hoskin of Loyalist College.

Since the lockout, Montreal Canadien's owner Geoff Molson said that beer sales have gone down in Canada and in the US. Beer sales in Canada dropped 5.1per cent in the first month of the fourth quarter. People drink beer and watch hockey and without hockey it affects all kinds of people in the alcohol sales business.

"There was a slight change in numbers once hockey started, but I expected to be more busy," said Farshiad Partow, manager of Crabby Joes bar in Belleville.

The Ontario Hockey League and other junior hockey associations will be affected as well with the loss of some major players in their roster. Richard Rakell (ANA), Matt Dumba (MIN) Dougie Hamilton (BOS), Mikhail Grigorenko (BUF), Jonathan Huberdeau (FLA), Alex Galchenyuk (MTL), Stefan Matteau (NJD), Scott Laughton (PHI) and Mark Scheifele (WIN) are all playing in the NHL and are no longer playing for their junior squads in this season unless they get dropped down.

With the loss of these players, junior teams may struggle with line-up changes and loss of points. Those players listed are the best of the best in Canadian and American junior leagues and it will take its toll on the teams.

Campus rec hockey gains hold at Loyalist

By Alicia Wynter

It didn't look good for the Loyalist Sharks Tuesday night. They were down 3-0 within the first five minutes of their hockey game against the Loyalist Salmon at the Yardmen Arena.

"Well, it's five on four for the girls, so the guys don't have too much of an advantage. It's not as bad as you'd think. I was really scared the first time when I went out, but it's actually a lot of fun," said Cassandra Stanton.

After the Sharks' first goal, the ladies picked up their game and showed their skills in the friendly competition against the men's team. They won their first game finishing 8-6.

Stanton is a first-year child and youth worker student at Loyalist College and has been playing hockey for the past 14 years. She said she enjoys playing any forward position and hopes there's an increase of female players in the future. Stanton made two of the eight goals scored during the game Tuesday night.

"It's a lot of fun. It's a lot different than competitive hockey, and the fact that it's not a huge competitive sport. It's just the people that are having fun and want to play," Stanton said, when describing what she likes about rec hockey.

Loyalist Athletics technician Peter Williams has been coaching the ladies hockey team for the past eight years. He has 15 years experience coaching women's hockey across the province.

"It's more of an outlet for them, it's not really an organized thing. It's an outlet for some of the girls who come to college and still want to continue having fun while playing hockey. There's no other options for them here in this city, you know, and it's recreational fun, come as you want," said Williams.

On average, there has been 70 to 120 students participating in recreational hockey, depending on the year. In some years, the school used to have eight to 10 teams in the league, although in the last couple of years it has scaled down a bit. Cory Mestre, campus recreational & fitness facilities coordinator, has six teams this year.

"We've had campus rec hockey in one

form or another, so, I would suspect it's been over 30 years, because I'm sure it ran before I was here. You know hockey is one of those sports that's sort of easy to do that there's always hockey guys around, so I would probably say it's been about 30 years," said Jim Buck, athletic director.

When it comes to developing different campus rec programs, hockey has been popular with students in the past years.

"It's sort of a no-brainer one, it's an easy one to do, it's one that there's always people wanting to play hockey, so it's not like with some campus rec where you're chasing kids to get out, I mean hockey is relatively easy to do," said Buck.

Buck said that the program has improved by tightening up the rules, like no alcohol in the change room. He said it's easier to enforce now because the co-

ordinators have been more diligent and the rinks have also tightened up as well because city by-laws and regulations have changes, and the rinks make it much more difficult to break the rules.

The rec hockey program has grown by having a lot more females wanting to play. When Buck first started, they didn't have a lot of females interested in playing campus rec hockey.

"Probably in the last eight to 10 years, that has changed drastically and to a point where now we have one full team of women playing in it. Fifteen to 20 years ago, that would have never happened, so this is probably the most enjoyable change from our perspective, is the fact that now we have females participating and we have full team and that's great," said Buck.



Photo by Alicia Wynter

Loyalist Sharks' player Cassandra Stanton shoots and scores her first of two goals during a hockey game against the Loyalist Salmon's goalie Jeremy King.